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AN

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

1655–1890.

BY

SAMUEL A. GREEN.

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GROTON:
1894.

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To the Memory

OF

GEORGE DEXTER BRIGHAM

(Town Clerk, 1855–1893),

A LIFE-LONG FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR IN MY NATIVE TOWN,
WHO OFTEN GAVE MOST CHEERFUL HELP IN MY
LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS,

THIS SKETCH IS INSCRIBED.

1154042

PREFACE.

THE following pages were written originally for a "History of Middlesex County," published in Philadelphia four years ago; and a few copies were then separately struck off. They were intended merely as a sketch of the town, and not as a full or formal history. In justice to the writer this statement seems to be necessary, as the annals of Groton, so rich in material, and covering so long a period of time, are here treated in a very scanty way. Through some misunderstanding the work was not divided into Chapters, as had been the intention of the author, who had no opportunity to see the revised proofs.

With the exception of the notice of Major Palmer, the brief biographies at the end of the book were not written by the author of this Historical Sketch. Luther Blood, a notice of whom there appears, died on September 22, 1893.

S. A. G.

Boston, March 16, 1894.

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

TOWN OF GROTON.[1]

THE town of Groton lies in the northwestern part of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and is bounded on the north by Pepperell and Dunstable; on the east by Tyngsborough and Westford; on the south by Littleton and Ayer; and on the west by Shirley and Townsend. The First Parish meeting-house—or "the tall-spired church"—is situated in latitude 42° 36′ 21.4″ north, longitude 71° 34′ 4″ west of Greenwich, according to the latest observations of the United States Coast Survey. It is distant nearly thirty-one miles in a straight line from the State House at Boston, but by the traveled road it is about thirty-four miles. The village of Groton is situated principally on one long street, known as Main Street, a section of the Great Road, which was formerly one of the principal thoroughfares between Eastern Massachusetts and parts of New Hampshire and Vermont. The Worcester, Nashua and Rochester Railroad passes

[1] Reprinted from "The History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts."

through it, and traverses the township at nearly its greatest length, running six miles or more within its limits. It is reached from Boston by trains on the Fitchburg Railroad, connecting with the Worcester, Nashua and Rochester road at Ayer, three miles distant from the village.

The original grant of the township was made in the spring of 1655, and gave to the proprietors a tract of land eight miles square; though subsequently this was changed by the General Court, so that its shape varied somewhat from the first plan. It comprised all of what is now Groton and Ayer, nearly all of Pepperell and Shirley, large parts of Dunstable and Littleton, and smaller parts of Harvard and Westford, in Massachusetts, and small portions of Hollis and Nashua, in New Hampshire. The present shape of the town is very irregular, and all the original boundary lines have been changed except where they touch Townsend and Tyngsborough.

The earliest reference to the town on any map is found in the Reverend William Hubbard's "Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New-England," a work published at Boston in the early spring of 1677, and in London during the ensuing summer under a different title. The map was the first one cut in New England, and of course done in a crude manner. It was engraved probably by John Foster, the earliest Boston printer. The towns assaulted by the Indians in Philip's War are indicated on the map by figures; and at that period these places were attracting some attention both here and in the mother country.

There were two petitions for the plantation of Groton, of which one was headed by Mr. Deane Winthrop, and the other by Lieutenant William Martin. The first one is not known to be in existence, but a contemporaneous copy of the second is in the possession of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The signatures vary in the style of handwriting, but they do not appear to be autographs, and may have been written by the same person. The answer to the petition is given on the third page of the paper, and signed by Edward Rawson, secretary of the Colony, which fact renders it probable that this is the petition actually presented to the General Court as the original one, after it had been copied by a skillful penman. It was found many years ago among the papers of Captain Samuel Shepley, by the late Charles Woolley, then of Groton, but who subsequently lived at Waltham; and by him given to the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The petition is written on the first page of a folio sheet, and the answer by the General Court appears on the third page of the paper. Near the top of the sheet are the marks of stitches, indicating that another paper at one time had been fastened to it. Perhaps the petition headed by Deane Winthrop was attached when the secretary wrote the action of the General Court, beginning, "In Ans^{r} to both theise peticons." The grant of the plantation was made by the Court of Assistants on May 25, 1655—as appears by this document—though subject to the consent of the House of Deputies, which was given, in all probability, on the same day. In the absence of other evi-

dence, this may be considered the date of the incorporation, which is not found mentioned elsewhere.

In the early history of the Colony the proceedings of the General Court, as a rule, were not dated day by day—though there are many exceptions—but the beginning of the session is always given, and occasionally the days of the month are recorded. These dates in the printed edition of the records are frequently carried along without authority, sometimes covering a period of several days or even a week; and for this reason it is often impossible to learn the exact date of any particular legislation, when there are no contemporaneous papers bearing on the subject.

The petition and endorsement are as follows:

"To the honored Generall Courte assembled at Boston the humble petition of vs whose names ar here vnder written humbly sheeth

"That where as youre petioners by a prouidence of god haue beene brought ouer in to this wildernes and liued longe here in: and being sumthing straightned for that where by subsistance in an ordinarie waie of gods prouidence is to be had, and Considdering the a lowance that gud giues to the sunes of men for such an ende: youre petioners request there fore is that you would be pleased to grant vs a place for a plantation vpon the Riuer that runes from Nashaway in to merimake at a place or a boute a place Caled petaupaukett and waubansconcett and youre petioners shall pray for youre happy prosedings

"William Martin
Richard Blood
John Witt
William Lakin
Richard Hauen
Timothy Cooper
John Lakin
John Blood
Mathu Farrington
Robert Blood

"In Ans^r to both theise peticons The Court Judgeth it meete to graunt the peticone^rs eight miles square in the place desired to make a Comfortable plantaçon wch henceforth shall be Called Groaten forme^rly knowne by the name of Petapawage: that M^r Damforth of Cambridge w^th such as he shall Asossiate to him shall and hereby is desired to lay it out w^th all Convenjent speede that so no Incouragement may be wanting to the Peticone^rs for a speedy procuring of a godly minister amongst them. Provided that none shall enjoy any part or porçon of that land by guift from the selectmen of that place but such who shall build howses on theire lotts so given them once w^thin eighteene months from the tjme of the sayd Townes laying out or Townes graunt to such persons; and for the p^rsent M^r Deane Winthrop M^r Jn^o Tinker M^r Tho: Hinckly Dolor Davis. W^m. Martin Mathew ffarington John Witt and Timothy Couper are Appointed the selectmen for the sayd Towne of Groaten for one two yeares from the tjme it is layd out, to lay out and dispose of particular lotts not exceeding twenty acres to each howse lott, And to Order the prudentiall affairs of the place at the end of which tjme other selectmen shall be chosen and Appointed in theire roomes: the selectmen of Groaton giving M^r Danforth such sattisfaction for his service & paines as they & he shall Agree;

"The magist^s haue passed this w^th reference to the Consent of theire bretheren the depu^ts hereto

"Edward Rawson, *Secrety*

"25 of May 1655.

"The Deputies Consent hereto

"William Torrey *Cleric.*"

The entry made by Secretary Rawson in the General Court Records, at the time of the grant, is substantially the same as his indorsement on Martin's petition, though it distinguishes between some of the names signed to each petition. It is evident that the one headed by Deane Winthrop was also signed by John Tinker and Thomas Hinckley; and probably by Dolor Davis, Richard Smith and Amos Richardson, as is inferred from a petition dated May 16, 1656, and given later in this account of the town. The Roman letters and Arabic figures within parentheses refer to the volume and page of the General

Court Records at the State-House. The entry is as follows:

"In Ans^r to the peticon of M^r Deane Winthrop M^r Jn^o Tincker Mr Tho: Hinckly &c & of Lieu Wm Martin Timothy Cooper &c The Court Judgeth it meete to Graunt etc." (IV. 204).

Charles Hastings Gerrish, of Groton, has a contemporaneous copy of this record made by Secretary Rawson, which was perhaps sent originally to the selectmen of the town. It was found among the papers of the late Hon. John Boynton, at one time town clerk.

The record of the House of Deputies is also practically the same, though there are a few verbal variations. It begins:

"There beinge a pet. p^rferd by M^r Dean Winthrop M^r Tho: Hinckley & divers others for a plantation vpon the riuer that Runs from Nashaway into Merimacke called petapawage & an other from some of the Inhabitants of Concord for a plantation in the same place to both which the Court returned this answer that the Court Thinkes meet to graunt etc." (III. 462).

The following letter from the Hon. J. Hammond Trumbull, whose authority in such matters is unquestioned, gives the meaning and derivation of the Indian name of the town:

"HARTFORD, Dec. 22, 1877.

"MY DEAR DR. GREEN,—*Petaupauket* and *Petapawage* are two forms of the same name, the former having the locative postposition (*-et*), meaning 'at' or 'on' a place; and both are corruptions of one or the other of two Indian names found at several localities in New England. From *which* of the two your Groton name came I cannot decide without some knowledge of the place itself. I leave you the choice, confident that one or the other is the true name.

"'*Pautuppog*,' used by Eliot for 'bay,' in Joshua xv. 2, 5, literally means 'spreading' or '*bulging* water,' and was employed to designate either a local widening of a river making still water, or an inlet from a river expanding into something like a pond or lake. Hence the name

of a part of (old) Saybrook, now Essex, Conn., which was variously written *Pautapaug*, *Poattapoge*, *Potabauge*, and, later, *Pettipaug*, &c., so designated from a spreading cove or inlet from Connecticut River. *Pottapoug* Pond, in Dana, Mass., with an outlet to, or rather an inlet from Chicopee River, is probably a form of the same name. So is 'Port Tobacco,' Charles County, Md. (the '*Potopaco*' of John Smith's map), on the Potomac.

"But there is another Algonkin name from which *Petaupauk* and some similar forms *may* have come, which denotes a swamp, bog, or quagmire,—literally, a place *into which the foot sinks;* represented by the Chippeway *petobeg*, a bog or soft marsh, and the Abnaki *potepaug*. There is a *Pautipaug* (otherwise *Pootapaug*, *Portipaug*, *Patapogue*, etc.) in the town of Sprague, Conn., on or near the Shetucket River, which seems to have this derivation.

"If there was in (ancient) Groton a pond or spreading cove, connected with the Nashua, Squannacook, Nissitisset, or other stream, or a pond-like enlargement or 'bulge' of a stream, this may, without much doubt, be accepted as the origin of the name. If there is none such, the name probably came from some 'watery swamp,' like those into which (as the 'Wonder-working Providence' relates) the first explorers of Concord 'sunke, into an uncertaine bottome in water, and waded up to their knees.'

"Yours truly,

"J. Hammond Trumbull."

The last suggestion, that the name came from an Algonkin word signifying "swamp" or "bog," appears to be the correct one. There are many bog meadows, of greater or less extent, in different parts of the town. Two of the largest—one situated on the easterly side of the village, and known as Half-Moon Meadow, and the other on the westerly side, and known as Broad Meadow, each containing perhaps a hundred acres of land—are now in a state of successful cultivation. Before they were drained and improved they would have been best described as swamps or bogs.

It is to be regretted that so many of the Indian words, which have a local significance and smack of

the region, should have been crowded out of the list of geographical names in Massachusetts. However much such words may have been twisted and distorted by English pronunciation and misapplication, they furnish now one of the few links that connect the present period with prehistoric times in America. "Nashaway," mentioned in the petition, is the old name of Lancaster, though spelled in different ways. Mr. Trumbull has given some interesting facts in regard to this Indian word, which I copy from a paper by him in the second volume of the "Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society:"

"NASHAWÉ (Chippewa), *nâsawaii* and *ashawiwi*), 'mid-way,' or 'between,' and with *ohke* or *auk* added, the 'land between' or 'the half-way place,'—was the name of several localities. The tract on which Lancaster, in Worcester county (Mass.) was settled, was 'between' the branches of the river, and so it was called '*Nashaway*' or '*Nashuwake*' (*nashauê-ohke*); and this name was afterwards transferred from the territory to the river itself. There was another *Nashaway* in Connecticut, between Quinebaug and Five-Mile Rivers in Windham county, and here, too, the mutilated name of the *nashaue-ohke* was transferred, as *Ashaweg* or *Assawoy*, to the Five-Mile River. *Natchaug*, in the same county, the name of the eastern branch of Shetucket river, belonged originally to the tract 'between' the eastern and western branches; and the Shetucket itself borrows a name (*nashauetuk-ut*) from its place 'between' Yantic and Quinebaug rivers (page 33)."

The town is indebted for its name to Deane Winthrop, a son of Governor John Winthrop and one of the petitioners for the grant. He was born at Groton, in the county of Suffolk, England, on March 16, 1622-23; and the love of his native place prompted him to perpetuate its name in New England. He stands at the head of the first list of selectmen appointed by the General Court, and for a short time

was probably a resident of the town. At the age of exactly eighty-one years he died, on March 16, 1703-04, at Pullen Point, now within the limits of Winthrop, Massachusetts.

The following letter, written by a distinguished representative of the family, will be read with interest:

"BOSTON, 27 February, 1878.

"MY DEAR DR. GREEN,—It would give me real pleasure to aid you in establishing the relations of Deane Winthrop to the town of Groton in Massachusetts. But there are only three or four letters of Deane's among the family papers in my possession, and not one of them is dated Groton. Nor can I find in any of the family papers a distinct reference to his residence there.

"There are, however, two brief notes of his, both dated 'the 16 of December, 1662,' which I cannot help thinking may have been written at Groton. One of them is addressed to his brother John, the Governor of Connecticut, who was then in London, on business connected with the Charter of Connecticut. In this note, Deane says as follows:

"'I have some thoughts of removing from the place that I now live in, into your Colony, if I could lit of a convenient place. The place that I now live in is too little for me, my children now growing up.'

"We know that Deane Winthrop was at the head of the first Board of Selectmen at Groton a few years earlier, and that he went to reside of Pullen Point, now called Winthrop, not many years after.

"I am strongly inclined to think with you that this note of December, 1662, was written at Groton.

"Yours very truly,

"ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

"SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D."

A few years before the incorporation of the town, Emanuel Downing, of Salem, who married Lucy, a sister of Governor John Winthrop, had a very large farm which he called Groton. It was situated in what was afterward South Danvers, but now Peabody, on the old road leading from Lynn to Ipswich, and thus named, says Upham, in his "Salem Witchcraft,"

"in dear remembrance of his wife's ancestral home in 'the old country'" (I. 43). Downing subsequently sold it to his nephews, John Winthrop, Jr., and Adam Winthrop, on July 23, 1644, when he speaks of it as "his farme of Groton." The sale is duly recorded in the Suffolk Registry of Deeds (I. 57).

Groton in Connecticut—younger than this town by just half a century, and during the Revolution the scene of the heroic Ledyard's death—was named in the year 1705, during the Governorship of Fitz-John Winthrop, out of respect to the Suffolk home of the family.

New Hampshire has a Groton, in Grafton County, which was called Cockermouth when first settled in the year 1766. Subsequently, however, the name was changed by an act of the Legislature, in accordance with the unanimous wish of the inhabitants who approved it, on December 7, 1796. Some of its early settlers were from Hollis, New Hampshire, and others from this town.

Vermont, also, has a Groton, in Caledonia County, which received its charter on October 20, 1789, though it was settled a short time before. A history of the town, written by General Albert Harleigh Hill, appeared in Miss Abby Maria Hemenway's "Vermont Historical Gazeteer" (IV. 1145–1168). Taken bodily from this work, a pamphlet edition was also published, with some slight variations, but with the same paging. The author says:

"It received the name of Groton through the influence of its earliest settlers, who were born in Groton, Mass. These sterling old patriots who, mid all the stirring activity of those days, forgot not the old birthtown, but hallowed its memory by giving its name to their new settlement and town in the wilderness" (page 1145).

New York, too, has a town called Groton, situated in Tompkins County; and Professor Marvin Morse Baldwin, in an historical sketch of the place, published in the year 1858, gives the reason for so naming it. He says:

"At first, the part of Locke thus set off was called Division; but the next year [1818] it was changed to Groton, on the petition of the inhabitants of the town, some of whom had moved from Groton, Mass., and some from Groton, Ct., though a few desired the name of York" (page 8).

There is also a Groton in Erie County, Ohio. It is situated in that part of the State known as the fire lands, and so called after the Connecticut town. The name was originally Wheatsborough, and its first settlement was made in the year 1809.

The latest place aspiring to the honor of the name is in Brown County, South Dakota, which was laid out six or eight years ago on land owned by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company. I am informed that various New England names were selected by the company and given to different townships, not for personal or individual reasons, but because they were short and well sounding, and unlike any others in that State.

In the middle of the last century—according to the New England Historical and Genealogical Register (XXIV. 56 *note*, and 60) for January, 1870—there was a place in Roxbury sometimes called Groton. It was a corruption of Greaton, the name of the man who kept the "Grey Hound" tavern in that neighborhood.

Groton, in England, is an ancient place; it is the same as the Grotena of Domesday Book, in which

there is a record of the population and wealth of the town, in some detail, at the time of William the Conqueror, and also before him, under the Anglo-Saxon King, Edward the Confessor. A literal translation of this census-return of the year 1086 is as follows:

"In the time of King Edward [the Abbot of] Saint Edmund held Groton for a manor, there being one carucate and a half of land. Always [there have been] eight villeins and five bordarii [a rather higher sort of serfs; cotters]. Always [there has been] one plough in demesne. Always two ploughs belonging to homagers [tenants], and one acre of meadow. Woodland for ten hogs. A mill serviceable in winter. Always one work-horse, six cattle, and sixteen hogs, and thirty sheep. Two free men of half a carucate of land, and they could give away and sell their land. Six bordarii. Always one plough, and one acre of meadow [belonging to these bordarii]. It was then [i. e., under King Edward] worth thirty shillings, and now valued at forty. It is seven furlongs in length and four in breadth. In the same, twelve free men, and they have one carucate; it is worth twenty shillings. These men could give away and sell their land in the time of the reign of King Edward. [The Abbot of] Saint Edmund has the soc, protection and servitude. Its gelt is seven pence, but others hold there."

This extract is taken from the fac-simile reproduction of the part of Domesday Book relating to Suffolk (page CLVIII), which was published at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, in the year 1863. The text is in Latin, and the words are much abbreviated. The writing is peculiar and hard to decipher. The same entry is found, in printed characters, in the second volume of Domesday Book (page 359. b.), published in the year 1783.

Some idea of the condensed character of the record may be gathered from the following copy of the beginning of the description of Groton, in which the matter within the brackets is what the Norman scrivener omitted: "Grotenā. [m] t.[empore] r.[egis]

e.[dvardi] teñ[uit] S.[anctus] e.[dmundus] p[ro] mañ.[erio]" etc. A carucate was "a plough land," or a farm that could be kept under tillage with one plough. It is variously estimated at from twelve acres to a hundred.

It is curious to note the different ways which the early settlers had of spelling the name; and the same persons took little or no care to write it uniformly. Among the documents and papers that I have examined in collecting material for a history of the town, I find it spelled in twenty-one different ways. viz: Groton, Grotton, Groten, Grotten, Grotin, Groaten, Groatne, Groaton, Groatton, Grooton, Grorton, Grouten, Grouton, Groughton, Growton, Growtin, Groyton, Grauton, Grawten, Grawton and Croaton. From the old spelling of the word, it may be inferred that the pronunciation varied; but at the present time natives of the town and those "to the manner born" pronounce it *Gráw-ton*. This method appears to hold good in England, as the Reverend John W. Wayman, rector of the parent town, writes me, under date of August 13, 1879, "That the local pronunciation is decidedly Gráw-ton. The name of the parish is described in old records as Grotton, or Growton." I learn from trustworthy correspondents in all the American towns of the name, that the common pronunciation of the word in each one of them is *Gráw-ton*. With the exception of the town in South Dakota, I have visited all these places, including the one in England, and my observation confirms the statement.

The following paragraph is taken from the *Gro-*

n Mercury, of June, 1851, a monthly newspaper edited by the late George Henry Brown, postmaster at that time :

"We have noticed amongst the mass of letters received at our Post Office, the word GROTON spelled in the following different ways: Grotten, Grawton, Graton, Grotown, Groutown, Growtown, Growtan, Growten, Growton, Gratan, Grattan, Grewton, Grothan, Graten, Groten, Grouton."

The daily life of the founders of Massachusetts would be to us now full of interest, but unfortunately little is known in regard to it. The early settlers were pious folk, and believed in the literal interpretation of the Scriptures. They worked hard during six days of the week, and kept Sunday with rigid exactness. The clearing of forests and the breaking up of land left little leisure for the use of pen and paper; and letter-writing, as we understand it, was not generally practiced. They lived at a time when printing was not common and post-offices were unknown. Their lives were one ceaseless struggle for existence; and there was no time or opportunity to cultivate those graces now considered so essential. Religion was with them a living, ever-present power; and in that channel went out all those energies which with us find outlet in many different directions. These considerations should modify the opinions commonly held in regard to the Puritan fathers.

The sources of information relating to the early history of Groton are few and scanty. It is only here and there in contemporaneous papers that we find any allusions to the plantation; and from these we obtain but glimpses of the new settlement. The earliest document connected with the town after its

incorporation is a petition now among the Shattuck Manuscripts, in the possession of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, which contains some interesting facts not elsewhere given. All the signatures are in the same handwriting as the body of the document; but those of the committee signing the report on the back of the petition are autographs. The report itself is in the hand of Joseph Hills. The document is as follows:

"Bost': 16 : 3 m° : 1656

"To the Right Wor^ll the Gou^rno^r the wo,^rll Deput Go^rno^r and Magistrates with the Worthy Deputies of this Hono^rd Court

"The humble Peticon of Certein the intended Inhabitants of Groten,

"Humbly Sheweth

"That yo^r Peticon^rs hauing obteined theire Request of a Plantacon from this honored Court, they haue made Entranc thervppon, and do Resolue by the Gracious Assistants of the Lord to proceed in the same (though the greatest Number of Peticon^rs for the Grant haue declyned the work) yet because of the Remoteness of the place, & Considering how heavy and slowe it is like to be Carried an end and with what Charge and difficultie it will be Attended yo^r Peticon^rs humble Requests are

"1 That they be not nominated or included in the Country taxes vntil the full end of three years from these p,^rnts: (in which time they Account theire expenc will be great to the building a house, procureing and maintaining of a minester &c, with all other nessessary Town Charges: they being but few at present left to Carry on the whole worke) and at the end of the term, shall be redy by gods help to yeald thei^r Rates according to thei^r Number & abillitie & what shall be imposed, vppon them

"2 That they may haue libertie to make Choyce of an other then M^r Danford for the Laying out their town bounds because of his desire to be excused by reason of his vrgent ocations otherwise, & that they be not strictly tyed to a square forme in their Line Laying out

"So shall yo^r Peticon.^rs be incoridged in this great work, and shall as, duty bindes pray for yo^r happiness and thankfully Rest

yo^r humble Servants

"Dean Winthropp	Jn°. Tinker	
Dolor Davis	Richard Smith	Jn°. Lakin
Will. Martin	Robert Blood	Amose Richenson

"In Ans. to this Peticon wee Conceiue it needfull that the Town of Groton be freed from Rates for three years from the time of their Grant as is desired.

"2d That they may Imploy any other known Artist in the room of Mr Danfort as need shall be.

"3d That the forme of the Towne may A little varie from A due Square According to the discrecon of the Comitte.

"21. 3d m°. (56) "Daniel Gookin
Joseph Hills
John Wiswall

"The Deputyes approue of the returne of the Comittee in answer to this petitio & desire the Consent of o^r honor^d magists. hereto

"William Torrey *Clerke*

"Consented to by the magists

"Edward Rawson *Secret*

"[Indorsed for filing:] Grotens Peticon | Entrd & x^s secured p^d 8 | 1656"

The next document, in point of time, connected with the history of Groton is a petition to the General Court from John Tinker, one of the original selectmen of the town. It is dated October, 1659, and preserved among the Massachusetts Archives (CXII. 120) at the State-House. In this petition Tinker makes some indirect charges against his townsmen, of which the real nature can now be learned only by inference. It would seem that they had taken land in an unauthorized manner, and their proceedings in other respects had obstructed the planting of the town; and that he felt aggrieved in consequence of such action. Evidently the new plantation did not prosper during the first few years of its settlement. The petition reads thus:

"Boston To the Honor^d Gen^rll Court Assembled at Boston
8 m° The humble Petition of Ju° Tinker
1659 Humbly Sheweth that

"With vnfained Respect to the good and welfare of Church and Commonwealth yo^r Petitioner hath endeauored to answer the expectation

and desires of this honord Court and the whole Countrey In erecting setling and Carying an End the Afaires of Groaton, Granted and intended by this honord Court for a plantation, which notwithstanding (all in vaine) it Continueth vnpeopled and soe Like to remaine vnless by this honord Court some wise and Juditious Comitte be impowered to order and dispose of all things there about, after which no doubt it will goe on and prosper, which is the humble desire and Request of yo.r Petitioner that soe it may be, and that yor Petitioner be admitted and appoynted faithfully to declare vnto and informe the said Comitte, 1 what hath allredy bin done, 2 what are the Grounds and Reasons wherefore it Remaineth at the stay it doeth. being so much desired by so many and such Considerable persons as it is, and 3 what hee Conceuith needfull to the further Confirming what is done according to Right to every person & Cause, and the setleing such due order as may incoridg the Carying on of all things to a prosperous effect, vnto which yor Petitioner shall redyly adress himselfe, as willing to submitt to the good pleasure of this honrd Court & such Authorized by them for such due satisfacon for all his Care time cost & paines in and about the said plantation as shall be thought meete and humbly begging the good fauor of god to Rest vppon you shall ever Remaine to the honord Court and Country

"Yor humble Servt JNO. TINKER

"The comittee haveing prsed this peticcon, do Judge yt it wilbe very convenient that a Comittee of 3: or more meet persons be nominated & impowred to Examine the pticulars therein mencconed. and make returne of wt they find to the Court of Eleccon.

"THOMAS DANFORTH
ANTHONY STODDARD
ROGER CLAP

"21. (8) 59. The Deput approue of the ret. of ye Comitee in answ: hereto & haue Nominated Mr Danforth Mr Ephraim Child Capt. Edw: Johnson to be their Committee desireing or Honord magists [consent] hereto

"WILLIAM TORREY *Cleric.*

"Consented to by ye magists EDW RAWSON *Secrety*"

It appears from the writing on it that Tinker's petition was referred to a special committee, who recommended that the whole matter be considered by another committee with larger powers, who should report to the Court of Election. In accordance with

this recommendation, Mr. Thomas Danforth, Captain Edward Johnson and Ephraim Child were appointed such a committee. I have here given their names in the order in which they are mentioned in the General Court Records (IV. 324), and not as they appear in the approval of the committee's return on the petition. The original report, made eighteen months afterwards and duly signed by them, is now among the Shattuck Manuscripts of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. It is dated May 23, 1661 ("23 (3) 1661"), and bears the official action of the House of Deputies and of the magistrates. Edward Rawson, the secretary, made his entry on the paper May 29, 1661. In copying the document I have followed the General Court Records, as this version of the petition contains fewer abbreviations and contractions. The record-book has been paged differently at three separate times; and the paging marked in red ink has been taken in this copy. The "Committees Returne ab[t] Groaten & Courts ordr" are as follows:

"Wee whose names are subscribed being Appointed & impowrd by the Generall Court in octobr 1659 for the examination of the proceedings about Groten plantation & the Intanglements that haue obstructed the planting thereof hitherto—hauing taking paines to travajle vnto the said place & examine the Records of former proceedings in that plase as also the Capacity of the s[d] place for the enterteining of a meet noumber of persons that may Carry on the affairs of a Toune, doe Apprhend (according to wt Information we haue had) that the place will Affoord a comfortable accommodation for sixty familjes at least that may subsist in a way of husbandry—And for such familyes as be there already planted w[ch] are not aboue four or five acres[1] wee doe not finde theire Interest in such

[1] The word "acres" occurs at the end of a line in the manuscript records, and appears to be an interpolation. The sense does not require

lands as they claime is legall & Just nor yet consistant wth the Courts ends in their graunt of the sajd plantation.

"And for the further encouragement of such as haue now a desire &c doe present themselvs as willing to plant themselves in that place,

"Wee craue leaue humbly to leaue our poore apprhentions wth this Honored Court as followeth

"1 That the old planters & their Assignes whose names are John Tincker Rich: Smith. Wm Martjn. Ri: blood Robt Blood & Jno Lakin that they reteine & keep as theire propriety, (of such lands as they now clajme an Interest in) each of them only twenty acres of meadow twenty acres for the house lott ten acres Intervale land & tenn acres of other vplands & that the same be sett out by a Comittee so as may not vnequally prejudice such as are or may be their Neighbors

"2 That the neere lands & meadows, be so diuided as may accomodate at least sixty familjes & for that end That the first diuision of lands be made in manner following vizt such as haue one hundred & fifty pounds estate be allowed equall wth the old planters aboue & that none exceed & that none haue lesse then tenn acres for theire houselott & five acres of meadow two & a halfe acres of Intervale & two & a half of other lands for planting lotts in their first divission & that none be admitted to haue graunts of lotts there but on Conditions following vizt

"1 That they Goe vp. wth theire familjes wthin 2 years after theire graunts, on penalty of forfeiting theire graunts againe to the Towne & so many tenn shillings as they had acres Graunted them for theire houselotts & that the like Injunction be putt vpon those aboue named as old planters.

"2 That all towne charges both Civil & Eccleasiasticall be levyed according to each mans Graunt in this first divition of lands for seuen years next Ensuing Excepting only such whose stocks of Catle shall exceed one hundred & fifty pounds estates.

"3 That the power of Admission of Inhabitants & Regulating the affaires of the sajd place be referred to a Comittee of meete persons Impowred by this Court thereto, Vntil the plantation be in some good measure (at least) filled wth Inhabitants & be enabled regularly & peaceably to Carry on ye same themselves

"4 That this honoured Court be pleased to graunt them Imunitjes [from] all Comon & Ordinary Country charges not exceeding a single rate or a Rate & a half p Annu for three years next ensuing.

it, and the original copy in the library of the New-England Historic, Genealogical Society does not contain it, though the printed edition of the General Court Records gives it.

"5 That in Graunting of lotts children haue theire due Consideration w^th estates theire paren^ts giving securitje to defray y^r charges of the place as is before p^mised.

"THO DANFORTH
EDWARD JOHNSON
EPHR. CHILD

"The Court Approoves of & doe Confirme the returne of the Comittee & doe hereby further order & Impower the aforesajd Comittee for the ends aboue mentioned vntill meete men shall be found amongst such as shall Inhabit there & be approoved of by a County Court"
(General Court Records, IV. 371.)

The next document, in point of time, found among the Archives (I. 21) at the State House and relating to Groton, is the following request for a brandmark, which was wanted probably for marking cattle

"The Humble Request of Joseph Parker to the Honoured Governor the Honourd magistrates & deputyes, Humbly Requests in behalfe of the towne of Grawton that the letter GR may bee Recorded as the brand mark belonging to the towne I being chosen Counstible this year make bolde to present this, to the Honoured Court it being but my duty, in the townes behalfe thus Hopeing the Honored Court will grant my request I rest yo^r Humble Servant :

"JOSEPH PARKER

"BOSTON : 31^th : may : 1666

"In answer to this motion the Deputies approue of the letters : GR to be y^e brand marke of groaten

"WILLIAM TORREY *Cleric.*

"o^r Honor^d magists consentinge hereto

"Consented by the magists

"EDW : RAWSON *Secrety*"

Joseph Parker, before coming to Groton, had lived at Chelmsford, where his children were born. He was a brother of James, another of the early settlers of the town.

During this period the town was paying some attention to the question of marks for trees as well as for cattle. At a general meeting held on March 5, 1665–66, it was voted that "there should be trees

marked for shade for cattell in all common hy wayes:" and furthermore that "the marke should be a great T." From various expressions found in the early town records, it would seem that the country in the neighborhood was not densely wooded when the settlement was first made. At a meeting of the selectmen held in the winter of 1669, an order was passed for the preservation of trees, but the writing is so torn that it is impossible to copy it. At another meeting held on January 13, 1673–74, it was voted that all trees of more than six inches in diameter at the butt, excepting walnut and pine, growing by the wayside, should be reserved for public works, and that the penalty for cutting them down, without authority, should be ten shillings a tree.

At a general town-meeting on December 21, 1674, leave was granted to William Longley, Jr., to cut down three or four trees standing in the road near his farm and shading his corn, on condition that he give to the town the same number of trees for mending the highways.

The early settlers of Groton encountered many trials and privations in planting the town. The men worked hard in felling trees and breaking ground, and the women toiled faithfully in their rude houses. They were used to hardships, and they took them with Christian resignation. Their daily life taught them the true principles of philosophy. They lived on the rough edge of civilization, and nothing stood between them and an unbroken wilderness. These pioneers were a devout people; and the strength of their religious belief is shown in no way so clearly as

in the fortitude with which they met their lot in life. The prowling Indians were their neighbors, whose constant movements required careful watching. There were families of savages scattered along the interval land of the Nashua valley, from Lancaster to the Merrimack River, who at times annoyed the settlers by killing pigs and stealing chickens. Judging from the number of stone implements found in the neighborhood, there was an Indian village just above the Red Bridge, on the west side of the Nashua River. It probably consisted of a few families only, belonging to the Nashua tribe, as they were called by the English. Like all their race, these Indians were a shiftless people, and often changed their abodes, going hither and thither as they found good hunting-grounds or fishing-places. They bartered skins and furs with the planters; and so much business was carried on in this way, that the government sold to individuals the right to trade with them. As early as July, 1657, John Tinker, one of the original selectmen of the town, appointed by the General Court, paid eight pounds for the privilege of trafficking with them at Lancaster and Groton. A few of these natives knew a little English, which they had picked up from contact with the whites. Gookin refers to them in his "History of the Christian Indians," when he speaks of "some skulking Indians of the enemy, that formerly lived about Groton, the principal whereof was named Nathaniel, he and his party did this and other mischief afterward, in burning several houses at Chelmsford."[1] This Nathaniel was taken subsequently at

[1] Archæologia Americana, II. 471.

Cocheco (now Dover), New Hampshire, and hanged in Boston. Some of these vagrants took an active part in the burning of Groton during Philip's War. The leader of the savages at this assault was John Monaco or Monoco, nicknamed "One-eyed John," from the loss of an eye. After he had taken by stratagem a garrison-house, he entered into a long conversation with Captain Parker, who was stationed in another house near by, and called him his *old neighbor*. From this fact I infer that "One-eyed John" knew Captain Parker, and had previously lived in the vicinity. Warfare among the aborigines did not require generalship so much as knowledge of places; and the head of an assaulting party was one familiar with the clearings and the lay of the land in the threatened territory. During the ensuing autumn this leader was brought to the gallows in Boston, where he suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

The Indians soon acquired from the English the love of strong drink, which is sure to lead to disputes and quarrels. The earliest documents at the State House, relating to Groton and the savages, give an account of a drunken brawl which ended in murder. The affair took place in the Merrimack Valley, and several men of this town were summoned to appear as witnesses at the investigation before the General Court in Boston. In the spring of 1668 Captain Richard Waldron built a trucking or trading-house at Penacock (now Concord), New Hampshire, where a few weeks later one Thomas Dickinson was murdered by an Indian while under the influence of liquor. The homicide created great excitement, and it has

been supposed to have delayed the permanent settlement of the place for many years. A warrant was issued directing the constable of Groton to summon John Page, Thomas Tarbell, Jr., Joseph Blood and Robert Parish, all of this town, before the General Court in order to give their testimony, which they did under oath. It appeared by the evidence that there had been a drunken row, and that Dickinson was killed by an Indian, who acknowledged the crime and expressed great sorrow for it, but pleaded drunkenness in extenuation of the deed. The culprit was tried at once by a council of the Indians, who sentenced him to be shot, which was done the next day. It is interesting now to note the high temperance stand taken, more than two hundred years ago, by the Chief Tohaunto, which places him abreast of the most earnest opposers of the rum traffic at the present time.

During a series of years before Philip's War the Indians had been supplied with arms and ammunition, though this was contrary to the laws of the Colonies. The French in Canada and the Dutch in New York had carried on considerable traffic with the natives in these contraband articles; and occasionally some avaricious settler would barter with them, giving powder and shot in exchange. The possession of firearms made the Indians bold and insolent, and the tendency of events was toward open hostilities. This tendency was strengthened by a feeling of suspicion on the part of the colonists, and by one of jealousy on the part of the savages. Distrust always grows out of suspicion, and the fears of the settlers

began to be excited when they thought of their exposed situation. Under these circumstances, it was wise to prepare for all emergencies; and at an early day a military company was organized in this town. The following entry is made in the manuscript records of the General Court during the session beginning May 6, 1673:

"James Parker of Groaten hauing had the care of the military Company there for seuerall yeares. is Appointed & ordered to be their leiftennant & Wm Larkin to be ensigne to the sajd Company there."[1]

The two officers of this organization were each promoted one grade during the next autumn, which would indicate that the company was filling up in numbers. At the session of the General Court beginning October 15, 1673, the record reads:

"The military Company of Groaten being destitut of military ofcers The Court Judgeth it meet to choose & Appoint James Parker to be their captane Wm Lakin to be leiftennant & Nathaniel Lawrence to be their ensigne.[2]

Before this time there had been in Middlesex County a company of troopers, or cavalry, made up of men living in the frontier towns, of which Groton was one—as mentioned in the General Court Records of October, 1669.

One of the prominent men in the history of the Colony at this period was Major Simon Willard. A native of England, he came to Massachusetts in the year 1634. He had lived at Concord, Lancaster and Groton, and in all these places exerted a wide influence. He had filled various civil offices, and in his

[1] (General Court Records, IV. 718.)
[2] (General Court Records, IV. 726.)

day was a noted military man. His farm was situated at Nonacoicus, now included within the limits of Ayer; and his dwelling-house was the first building burned at the attack on Groton, March 13, 1676. During several months previously he had been engaged with his men in scouting along the line of frontier settlements and protecting the inhabitants. At this assault Major Willard came with a company of cavalry to the relief of the town, though he did not reach the place in time to be of service in its defence. He died at Charlestown, on April 24, 1676, a very few weeks after this town was abandoned. Benjamin Thompson, the earliest native American poet, pays the following tribute to his character, in a little pamphlet published during Philip's War, and entitled "New England's Tears." It is certainly rude in expression, and probably just in its conception, but not accurate as to the date of his death:

"About this Time Died Major *Willard* Esq.; who had continued one of our Senators many years, and Head of the *Massachuset* Bands. In 23 April 1676.

"EPITAPHIUM.

"*Great, Good, and Just, Valiant, and Wise,*
New Englands *Common Sacrifice:*
The Prince of War, the Bond of Love,
A True Heroick Martial Dove:
Pardon I crowd his Parts so close
Which all the World in measure knows,
We envy Death, and well we may,
Who keeps him under Lock and Key."

Nearly one-and-twenty years had passed since the little settlement in the wilderness was begun, and Groton was fast approaching its majority. The new town had enjoyed a moderate share of prosperity, and

was slowly working out its destiny. The founders were poor in this world's goods, but rich in faith and courage. They had now tasted the hardships of frontier life, but not as yet felt the horrors of savage warfare. The distant thunders of a threatening storm were beginning to be heard, and the occasional flashes put the early settlers on their guard. Philip's War had broken out during the summer of 1675, and the outlying settlements were exposed to new dangers. The inhabitants of this town took such precautions as seemed needful, and trusted in Providence for the rest. They were just beginning to prepare for the work of another season, when a small band of prowling Indians alarmed the town by pillaging eight or nine houses and driving off some cattle. This occurred on March 2, 1676, and was a sufficient warning, probably, to send the inhabitants to the garrison-houses, whither they were wont to flee in time of danger. These places of refuge were usually houses surrounded by a strong wall of stone or timber, built up as high as the eaves, with a gateway, and port-holes for the use of musketry.

In Groton there were five such garrison-houses, and under their protection many a sleepless, anxious night was passed by the inmates. Four of these houses were very near each other, and the fifth was nearly a mile away. The sites of some of them are well known. One was Mr. Willard's house, which stood near the High School; another was Captain Parker's house, which stood just north of the Town Hall; and a third was John Nutting's house, on the other side of James's Brook. The fourth was proba-

bly north of John Nutting's, but perhaps south of Mr. Willard's. There is a tradition that one stood near the house formerly owned and occupied by the late Eber Woods, which would make the fifth garrison-house "near a mile distant from the rest." Richard Sawtell, the first town-clerk, was living on this site at that time, and his house would have been a convenient rallying-point for his neighbors. Without doubt he was the Richard Sawtell who served in Major Appleton's company during Philip's War.

It is recorded in the inventory of his estate, on file in the Middlesex Probate Office at East Cambridge, that Timothy Cooper, of Groton, was "Sleine by the Indeins the Second day of march, 1675–6." Cooper was an Englishman by birth, and lived, probably, somewhere between the Baptist meeting-house and the beginning of Farmers' Row. It is not known that there was other loss of life at this time, but the affair was serious enough to alarm the inhabitants. They sought refuge immediately in the garrison-houses, as the Indians were lurking in the vicinity. On March 9th the savages again threatened the beleaguered town, and by a cunningly contrived ambush, managed to entrap four men at work, of whom one was killed and one captured, while the other two escaped. This second assault must have produced great alarm and consternation among the people of the town. The final and main attack, however, came on the 13th, when the enemy appeared in full body,—thought to be not less than four hundred in number. The inhabitants at this time all were gathered into the several garrisons for protection. During the previous

night the savages scattered throughout the neighborhood, and the first volley of shot on the morning of the 13th was a signal for the general burning of the town; and in this conflagration the first meeting-house of Groton was destroyed, together with about forty dwelling-houses. This building, erected at the cost of many and great privations, was the pride of the inhabitants. With its thatched roof, it must have burned quickly; and in a very short time nothing was left but a heap of smoking embers. Although it had never been formally dedicated to religious worship, it had been consecrated in spirit to the service of God by the prayers of the minister and the devotion of the congregation. In this assault John Nutting's garrison was taken by stratagem. The men defending it had been drawn out by two Indians, apparently alone, when the savages in ambush arose and killed one of the men, probably John Nutting himself, and wounded three others. At the same time the garrison-house, now defenceless, was attacked in the rear and the palisades pulled down, allowing the enemy to take possession. The women and children, comprising those of five families, escaped to Captain Parker's house, situated between James's Brook and the site of the Town-House.

There is a family tradition, worthy of credence, that John Nutting was killed while defending his log-house fort during Philip's War. His wife's name appears a few months later in the Woburn town-records as "Widow Nutting," which is confirmatory of the tradition.

Several printed accounts of Philip's War appeared

very soon after it was ended, and these furnish all that is known in regard to it. At that time there was no special correspondent on the spot to get the news; and, as the means for communication were limited, these narratives differ somewhat in the details, but they agree substantially in their general statements.

With the exception of Hubbard's Narrative, the contemporary accounts of this assault on the town are all short; and I give them in the words of the writers, for what they are worth. The first is from "A Brief History of the Warr with the Indians in Newe England," by Increase Mather, published in the year 1676. This account, one of the earliest in print, is as follows:

"March the 10*th*. Mischief was done, and several lives cut off by the *Indians* this day, at *Groton* and at *Sudbury*. An humbling Providence, inasmuch as many Churches were this day Fasting and Praying. (Page 23.)

"*March* 13. The Indians assaulted *Groton*, and left but few houses standing. So that this day also another Candlestick was removed out of its place. One of the first houses that the enemy destroyed in this place, was the *House of God*, *h. e.* which was built, and set apart for the celebration of the publick Worship of God.

"When they had done that, they scoffed and blasphemed, and came to Mr. *Willard* (the worthy Pastor of the Church there) his house (which being Fortified, they attempted not to destroy it) and tauntingly, said, *What will you do for a house to pray in now we have burnt your Meeting-house?* Thus hath the enemy done wickedly in the Sanctuary, they have burnt up the Synagogues of God in the Land; they have cast fire into the Sanctuary; they have cast down the dwelling place of his name to the Ground. *O God, how long shall the Adversary approach? shall the Enemy Blaspheme thy Name for ever? why withdrawest thou thine hand, even thy right hand? pluck it out of thy bosome.*" (Page 24.)

Several accounts of the war appeared in London in 1676, only a few months after the destruction of this town. They were written in New England, and

sent to Old England, where they were at once published in thin pamplets. The authors of them are now unknown, but undoubtedly they gathered their materials from hearsay. At that time Indian affairs in New England attracted a good deal of attention in the mother country. One of these pamphlets is entitled: "A True Account of the most Considerable Occurrences that have hapned in the Warre between the English and the Indians in New England, . . . as it hath been communicated by Letters to a Friend in London." This narrative says:

"On the 13th of *March*, before our Forces could return towards our Parts, the *Indians* sent a strong party, and assaulted the Town of *Groton*, about forty miles North-west from *Boston*, and burn'd all the deserted Houses; the Garrison'd Houses, which were about ten, all escaped but one, which they carryed, but not the *English* in it; for there was but one slain and two wounded." (Page 2.)

Another account, entitled: "A New and Further Narration of the State of New England, being a continued account of the Bloudy Indian-war," gives the following version:

"The 14th of *March* the savage Enemy set upon a Considerable Town called *Groughton*, and burnt Major *Wilberds* House first (who with his family removed to *Charls* Town) and afterwards destroyed sixty Five dwelling-houses more there, leaving but six houses standing in the whole Town, which they likewise furiously attempted to set on fire; But being fortified with Arms and Men as Garisons, they with their shot, killed several of the Enemy, and prevented so much of their designe; Nor do we hear that any person on our side was here either slain or taken captive." (Page 4.)

A few pages further on it says: "*Grantham* and *Nashaway* all ruined but one house or two." (Page 14.) Few persons would recognize this town under the disguise of *Grantham*.

A third one of these London pamphlets, bearing the title of "News from New England," says:

"The 7th of *March* following these bloody *Indians* march't to a considerable Town called *Groaton* where they first set fire to Major *Willards* house, and afterwards burnt 65 more, there being Seaventy two houses at first so that there was left standing but six houses of the whole Town." (Page 4.)

The details of the burning of the town are found in "A Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New England," written by the Reverend William Hubbard, and printed in the year 1677. It is the fullest history of the events relating to Groton appearing near the time; and very likely many of the facts were obtained from the Reverend Mr. Willard. The account is not as clear as might be desired, and contains some glaring discrepancies, but it is too long to be quoted here.

The Indians were a cowardly set and never attacked in open field. They never charged on works in regular column, but depended rather on craft or cunning to defeat their adversary. The red *hell-hounds*—as they were sometimes called by our pious forefathers—were always ready to attack women and children, but afraid to meet men. The main body of the savages passed the night following the final attack in "an adjacent valley," which cannot now be easily identified, but some of them lodged in the garrison-house, which they had taken; and the next morning, after firing two or three volleys at Captain Parker's house, they departed. They carried off a prisoner,—John Morse, the town clerk,—who was ransomed a short time afterward. The following reference to him in an undated letter, written by the

Rev. Thomas Cobbet to the Rev. Increase Mather, shows very nearly the time of his release:

"May y^e 12th [1676] Good wife Diuens [Divoll] and Good wife Ketle vpon ransom paid, came into concord. & vpon like ransom presently [a]fter John Moss of Groton & lieftenant Carlors [Kerley's] Daughter of Lancaster were set at liberty & 9 more w^tout ransom." (Mather Manuscripts in the Prince Collection, at the Boston Public Library, I. 76.)

The ransom for John Morse was paid by John Hubbard, of Boston, and amounted to "about five pounds." Morse's petition to the Council, to have Hubbard reimbursed, is found among the Massachusetts Archives (LXIX. 48).

Fortunately the loss of life or limb on the part of the inhabitants of the town was small, and it is not known that more than three persons were killed—of whom one was Timothy Cooper, and another, without doubt, John Nutting—and three wounded; two were made prisoners, of whom one escaped from the savages and reached Lancaster, and the other, John Morse, was ransomed.

The lot of these early settlers was indeed hard and bitter; they had seen their houses destroyed and their cattle killed, leaving them nothing to live on. Their alternative now was to abandon the plantation, which they did with much sadness and sorrow. The settlement was broken up, and the inhabitants scattered in different directions among their friends and kindred. In the spring of 1678, after an absence of two years, they returned and established anew the little town on the frontier.

In the autumn of 1879 the town of Groton erected a monument to commemorate the site of the meeting-

house which was burned during this assault. It bears the following inscription :

"NEAR THIS SPOT
STOOD THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE OF GROTON
BUILT IN 1666
AND BURNT BY THE INDIANS
13 MARCH 1676"

The monument, in connection with two others relating to the history of the town, was dedicated with appropriate exercises in the Town Hall on Feb. 20, 1880, when an address was delivered by Dr. Samuel A. Green, which was subsequently printed.

After Philip's War the colonists were at peace with the Indians, but it was a suspicious kind of peace. It required watching and a show of strength to keep it; there was no good-will between the native race and the white intruders. The savages at best made bad neighbors; they were treacherous and addicted to drink. The following entries in the town records show that they were a shiftless and drunken set :

"Jnnenary 31 1681 It [was] agred upon by the select men That the Indanes shall be warned out of the Toune forth with and if the shall neiglect the warning and if any of them be taken drounke or in drinke or with drinke Then these parsons ar to be sezed and brout be foure the select men either by constable or by any other parson and be pounesed accordin as the law doth direct and the Informar shall be sattised for his paines"

"March 28 1682 two Indian squaws being apprehended In drinke & with drinke brought to y^e select men one squaw Nehatchechin swaw being drouncke was sentanced to receive & did receive ten stripes the other John Nasquuns sway was sentanced to pay 3^s 4^d cash and loose her two quart bottle and the Liquour in it awarded to Sarg^t Laken who seized them."

During this period the Indians began again to be

troublesome, and for the next fifteen or twenty years continued their occasional depredations by murdering the inhabitants, burning their houses, destroying their crops or killing their cattle. Into these garrison-houses the neighboring families gathered at night, where they were guarded by armed men who warned the inmates of any approach of danger.

At times troops were stationed here by the Colonial authorities for the protection of the town; and the orders and counter-orders to the small garrison show too well that danger was threatening. In the meanwhile King William's War was going on; and the enemy had material and sympathetic aid from the French in Canada. The second attack on the town came in the summer of 1694, and the accounts of it I prefer to give in the words of contemporary writers. Sometimes there are discrepancies, but, in the main, such narratives are trustworthy.

The attack was made on Friday, July 27th, and Cotton Mather, in his "Magnalia," thus refers to it:

"Nor did the Storm go over so: Some Drops of it fell upon the Town of *Groton*, a Town that lay, one would think, far enough off the Place where was the last *Scene* of the *Tragedy*.

"On *July* 27. [1694,] about break of Day *Groton* felt some surprising Blows from the *Indian Hatchets*. They began their Attacks at the House of one Lieutenant *Lakin*, in the Out-skirts of the *Town;* but met with a Repulse there, and lost one of their Crew. Nevertheless, in other Parts of that Plantation (when the good People had been so tired out as to lay down their *Military Watch*) there were more than Twenty Persons killed, and more than a Dozen carried away. Mr. *Gershom Hobart*, the Minister of the Place, with part of his Family, was Remarkably preserved from falling into their Hands, when they made themselves the Masters of his House; though they Took Two of his Children, whereof the one was Killed, and the other some time after happily Rescued out of his Captivity." (Book. VII. page 86.)

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Governor Hutchinson, in his "History of the Province of Massachusetts Bay," published during the following century, writes:

"Having crossed Merrimack, on the 27th of July [1694] they fell upon Groton, about 40 miles from Boston. They were repulsed at Lakin's garrison house, but fell upon other houses, where the people were off their guard, and killed and carried away from the vicinity about forty persons. Toxus's two nephews were killed by his side, and he had a dozen bullets through his blanket, according to Charlevoix, who adds that he carried the fort or garrison and then went to make spoil at the gates of Boston; in both which facts the French account is erroneous." (II. 82.)

In the assault of July, 1694, the loss on the part of the inhabitants was considerably greater than when the town was destroyed in the attack of 1676. It is said that the scalps of the unfortunate victims were given to the Count de Frontenac, Governor of Canada. A large majority, and perhaps all, of the prisoners taken at this time were children. The Indians had learned that captives had a market value; and children, when carried off, could be more easily guarded than adults. It was more profitable for the savages to exchange prisoners for a ransom, or sell them to the French, than it was to kill them. It is now too late to give the names of all the sufferers, but a few facts in regard to them may be gathered from fragmentary sources. The families that suffered the severest lived, for the most part, in the same general neighborhood, which was near the site of the first meeting-house. Lieut. William Lakin's house, where the fight began, was situated in the vicinity of Chicopee Row.

The following list of casualties, necessarily incom-

plete and in part conjectural, is given as an approximation to the loss sustained by the town:

	Killed.	Captured.
John Longley's family	7	3
Rev. Mr. Hobart's "	1	1
John Shepley's "	4?	1
James Parker, Jr.'s "	2	3?
Alexander Rouse's "	2	1

Mr. Gershom Hobart, the minister, whose house was captured in this assault, lived where the Baptist meeting-house now stands. One of his boys was killed, and another, Gershom, Jr., was carried off. There is a tradition extant that a third child was concealed under a tub in the cellar, and thus saved from the fury of the savages. Judge Sewall writes in his diary, under the date of May 1, 1695:

"Mr. Hobarts son Gershom is well at a new Fort a days Journey above Nerigawag [Norridgewock], Masters name is Nassacombêwit, a good Master, and Mistress. Master is chief Captain, now Bambazeen is absent."

("Massachusetts Historical Collections," V. Fifth series, 403, 404.)

According to a letter written by the Reverend John Cotton to his wife at Plymouth, and dated "Election-night, Boston" (May 29, 1695), he was rescued from captivity during that month. The inscription on the Shepley monument says that "the Indians massacred all the Sheples in Groton save a John Sheple 16 years old who the[y] carried captive to Canada and kept him 4 years, after which he returned to Groton and from him descended all the Sheples or Shepleys in this Vicinity;" but there is no record to show how many there were in this family. Mr. Butler, in his History (page 97), makes substantially

the same statement, but does not mention any number. In my list it is placed at five, which is conjectural; of this number probably four were slain. Shepley lived near where the Martin's Pond Road starts off from the North Common. The knowledge which the boy John obtained of their language and customs, while a prisoner among the Indians, was of much use to him in after-life. Tradition says that, when buying furs and skins of them, he used to put his foot in one scale of the balance instead of a pound weight. In the summer of 1704, while he and thirteen other men were reaping in a field at Groton, they were attacked by a party of about twenty Indians. After much skirmishing Shepley and one of his comrades, Butterfield by name, succeeded in killing one of the assailants, for which act they were each granted four pounds by the Provincial authorities. He was the direct ancestor of the late Honorable Ether Shepley, of Portland, formerly chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of the State of Maine, and his son, the late Gen. George Foster Shepley, formerly a justice of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit of the United States. John's petition to the General Court, asking that an allowance be made for this service, and giving the particulars of the attack, is found among the Massachusetts Archives (XXX, 496, 497) at the State-House.

Among the "Nams of thos Remaining Still in hands of the french at Canada," found in a document dated October, 1695, are those of "Lidey Langly gerl" and "Jn° Shiply boy." In this list the resi-

dences of both these children are incorrectly written, Lydia's being given as Dover, New Hampshire, and John's as Oyster River. They both belonged in this town, and were taken at the assault of July 27, 1694. The name of Thomas Drew appears in the same list as of Groton, which is a mistake, as he was of Oyster River. (Archives, XXXVIII. A 2.)

This expedition against Groton was planned in part by the Indians at a fort called Amsaquonte above Norridgewock, in Maine. It was arranged also in the plan of operations that Oyster River—now Durham, New Hampshire—should be attacked on the way; and the assault on that town was made July 18th nine days before the one on Groton. At Oyster River more than ninety persons were either killed or captured; the prisoners from the two towns appear to have been taken to Maine, where they were brought frequently together during their captivity. On January 21, 1695, Lieutenant-Governor William Stoughton issued a proclamation, in which he refers to the "tragical outrages and barberous murders" at Oyster River and Groton. He says that several of the prisoners taken at these places "are now detained by the said Indians at Amarascoggin and other adjoining places."

Hezekiah Miles, *alias* Hector, a friendly Indian, at one time a captive in the enemy's hands, made a deposition before the Lieutenant-Governor and Council, at Boston, May 31, 1695, which gives some details of the preparation for the attack; and Ann Jenkins, in a deposition on June 11, 1695, adds other particulars. These papers may be found among the Massachusetts Archives (VIII. 39, 40).

The story of William and Deliverance Longley's family is a sad one to relate. They were living, with their eight children, on a small farm, perhaps a mile and a quarter from the village, on the east side of the Hollis road. Their house was built of hewn logs, and was standing at the beginning of the present century. The old cellar, with its well-laid walls, was distinctly visible forty years ago, and traces of it could be seen even to very modern times. The site of this house has recently been marked by a monument bearing the following inscription :—

HERE DWELT
WILLIAM AND DELIVERANCE LONGLEY
WITH THEIR EIGHT CHILDREN.
ON THE 27TH OF JULY 1694
THE INDIANS KILLED THE FATHER AND MOTHER
AND FIVE OF THE CHILDREN
AND CARRIED INTO CAPTIVITY
THE OTHER THREE.

The monument was erected in the autumn of 1879, at the expense of the town, on land generously given for the purpose by Mr. Zechariah Fitch, the present owner of the farm; and it was dedicated with appropriate exercises on February 20, 1880.

On the fatal morning of July 27, 1694, the massacre of this family took place. The savages appeared suddenly, coming from the other side of the Merrimack River, and began the attack at Lieutenant William Lakin's house, where they were repulsed with the loss of one of their number. They followed it up by assaulting other houses in the same neigh-

borhood. They made quick work of it, and left the town as speedily as they came. With the exception of John Shepley's house, it is not known that they destroyed any of the buildings; but they pillaged them before they departed. They carried off thirteen prisoners, mostly children,—and perhaps all,—who must have retarded their march. There is a tradition that, early in the morning of the attack, the Indians turned Longley's cattle out of the barnyard into the cornfield and then lay in ambush. The stratagem had the desired effect. Longley rushed out of the house unarmed, in order to drive the cattle back, when he was murdered and all his family either killed or captured. The bodies of the slain were buried in one grave, a few rods northwest of the house. A small apple-tree growing over the spot and a stone lying even with the ground, for many years furnished the only clue to the final resting-place of this unfortunate family, but these have now disappeared.

William Longley was town clerk in the year 1687, and also from 1692 till his death, in 1694; and only one week before he was killed he had made entries in the town records. His father, William Longley, Sr., also had been town clerk during the years 1666 and 1667, and died November 29, 1680. The father was one of the earliest settlers of the town, as well as the owner of a thirty-acre right in the original Groton plantation. Lydia, John and Betty were the names of the three children carried off by the savages, and taken to Canada. Lydia was sold to the French and placed in the Congregation of Nôtre Dame, a convent in Montreal, where she embraced the Roman Catho-

lic faith, and died July 20, 1758, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. Betty perished soon after her capture from hunger and exposure; and John, the third child, remained with the savages for more than four years, when he was ransomed and brought away much against his own will. At one time during his captivity he was on the verge of starving, when an Indian kindly gave him a dog's foot to gnaw, which for the time appeased his hunger. He was known among his captors as John Augary. After he came home his sister Lydia wrote from Canada urging him to abjure the Protestant religion; but he remained true to the faith of his early instruction.

Their grandmother, the widow of Benjamin Crispe, made her will April 13, 1698, which was admitted to probate in Middlesex County on the 28th of the following December; and in it she remembered these absent children as follows:

"I give and bequeath Vnto my three Grand-Children y^t^ are in Captivity if they returne Vizdt these books one of y^m^ a bible another a Sermon booke treating of faith and the other a psalme book."

The old lady herself, doubtless, had read the "Sermon booke treating of faith;" and it must have strengthened her belief in Divine wisdom, and been a great consolation in her trials. She did not know at this time that her granddaughter was already a convert to the Roman Catholic religion. The knowledge of this fact would have been to her an affliction scarcely less than the massacre of her daughter's family.

John Longley returned about the time when the grandmother died; and subsequently he filled many

important offices both in the church and the town. Like his father and grandfather, he was the town clerk during several years. Among the papers (Knox Manuscripts, Waldo Papers, L. 13) in the possession of the New England Historic Genealogical Society is a deposition made by Longley, giving a short account of his captivity among the Indians.

In the month of July, 1877, I was in Montreal, where I procured, through the kindness of the Mother Superior at the Congregation of Nôtre Dame, a copy of the French record of Lydia's baptism, of which the following is a translation :

"On Tuesday, April 24, 1696, the ceremony of baptism was performed on an English girl, named Lydia Longley, who was born April 14, 1674, at Groton, a few miles from Boston in New England. She was the daughter of William Longley and Deliverance Crisp, both Protestants. She was captured in the month of July, 1694, by the Abénaqui Indians, and has lived for the past month in the house of the Sisters of the Congregation of Nôtre Dame. The godfather was M. Jacques Leber, merchant; the godmother was Madame Marie Madeleine Dupont, wife of M. de Maricourt, Ecuyer, Captain of a company of Marines: she named this English girl Lydia Madeleine.

Signed "Lydia Madeleine Longley,
"Madeleine Dupont,
"Leber,
"M. Caille, *acting curate.*"

After this attack of July 27th the town was left in straitened circumstances, and the inhabitants found it difficult to meet the demands made on them. In this emergency they petitioned the General Court for relief, which was duly granted.

Cotton Mather says that one man was killed at Groton in the year 1697, and another, with two children, carried into captivity. (Magnalia, Book VII. page 91.) He does not give the date clearly, but inferen-

tially it is June. The prisoner was Stephen Holden, who was captured, with his two oldest sons, John and Stephen, Jr. John was released in January, 1699, at which time the father and the other boy were yet remaining in the hands of the savages. It was not long, however, before they too were freed; for, in the following June, the House of Representatives voted three pounds and twelve shillings for the expenses that had been incurred in bringing them back.

Queen Anne's War, as it is commonly called in America, broke out in the year 1702, when England declared war against France and Spain; and the American Colonies were drawn into the contest. The Indians in New England were in sympathy with the French; and they kept the frontier settlements continually on the alert. Strict vigilance, on the part of the colonists was the price of their safety. Military companies were still held under discipline and drill, and from time to time were reviewed by the proper officers. In the year 1702, Chief Justice Samuel Sewall accompanied Governor Joseph Dudley through Middlesex County on a tour of inspection; and in his Diary, under date of October 28th, he writes:

"Went to Groton, saw Captain Prescot and his company in Arms. (Gov^r had sent to them from Dunstable that would visit them). Lancaster is about 12 Miles Southward from Groton. Concord is 16 Miles ¾ and Ten-Rod from Groton."

(Massachusetts Historical Collections, VI. fifth series, 67.)

After these alarms there was a short respite, which continued till 1704, when the frontier towns were again exposed to savage warfare, and this town suffered with the others.

Samuel Penhallow, in "The History of the Wars

of *New England*" (Boston, 1726), thus refers to the attack on this place in August, 1704: The Indians—

"afterwards fell on *Lancaster*, and *Groaton*, where they did some Spoil, but not what they expected, for that these Towns were seasonably strengthened. . . .

"And yet a little while after they fell on *Groaton*, and *Nashaway* [Lancaster], where they kill'd Lieut. *Wyler* [Wilder], and several more. (Pages 24, 25.)

In the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society is a manuscript diary of John Marshall, of Braintree, which has the following entry:

The begining of this month of august [1704] the indians did mischief at Lancaster Killed 3 or 4 persons burnt their meeting house: and did some harm allso at Groton. the same week. Killed one or more: about 200 men went out after them who weer gone 20 days under major Taylor, but Returned Without doing any spoill on them."

The attack on Lancaster was on July 31st, and that on Groton probably within a day or two of the same time.

It was during this assault that Matthias Farnsworth, Jr., was captured and taken to Canada, where he remained permanently. He was afterward married to a French wife, and his numerous posterity are still living in Canada. The name is found written now Farnet, Farnef and Phaneuf.

A party of Indians, numbering about thirty, made their appearance in town, and killed a man on the night of October 25, 1704. Pursuit was at once made for them, but it was unsuccessful. *The Boston News-Letter*, October 30, 1704, gives the following account of the affair;

"On *Wednesday* night [October 25] an English man was kill'd in the woods at *Groton* by the Indians which were afterwards descryed in the night by the Light of their Fires, by a Person Travailing from *Groton*

to *Lancaster*, and judged they might be about Thirty in number; pursuit was made after them, but none could be found."

From "Marshall's Diary" we learn the name of the man who was slain. It is there recorded:

"on the 25 day [October, 1704], mr Breck was ordained at marlborrough. the next day a man was killed and scalped by the indians he belonged to the town of Groton his name was davis: a very useful man and much Lamented."

It has been a tradition that John Davis was killed by the Indians, but the date of his death was unknown; this entry, however, seems to fix it. It is said to have happened in the early part of the evening, while he was taking in some clothes which had been washed and hung out to dry. He lived near the Groton School, where W. Dickson resided when the map in Mr. Butler's History was made; and Davis's Fordway, in the river near by, named after him, is still remembered by the older people of that neighborhood.

It is not surprising that the inhabitants, upon the renewal of hostilities, were obliged to ask for help from the General Court. They had already suffered much in life and property, and were little able to bear new burdens. They represented to the Governor that they had been greatly impoverished by their loss of horses and cattle, of corn and hay, and that they were scarcely able to hold out much longer; but the crowning calamity of all was the illness of the minister, Mr. Hobart, which prevented him from preaching. Their means were so limited that they could not support him and supply his place besides. They were obliged to earn their living at the peril of their lives; and some were thinking to leave the

town. They spent so much time in watching and guarding that they seemed to be soldiers rather than farmers. Under these discouraging circumstances they asked for help from the Province, and were allowed out of the public treasury twenty pounds to assist them in procuring another minister, besides ten pounds to be divided among those who had been the greatest sufferers in the late attack upon them.

Two years later another assault was made on the town, though with little damage. I again quote from Penhallow's History of the Wars of New England:

"[July 21, 1706]. Several Strokes were afterwards made on *Chelmsford*, *Sudbury* and *Groton*, where three Soldiers as they were going to publick Worship, were way-laid by a small Party, who kill'd two, and made the other a Prisoner." (Page 36.)

A few additional particulars of these "Strokes" are found in the Rev. John Pike's Journal, printed in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society for September, 1875:

"July 21, 1706. Sab: 2 souldiers slain & one carried away by the enemy at Groton. They were all new-Cambridge [Newton] men & were returned to their Post from one Bloods house, who had invited y^m^ to Dinner." (XIV. 143.)

Marshall, in his Diary, briefly alludes to this affair, thus:

"on the 21 [July] they Killed 2 and took one captive at groton.

The Rev. Jonathan Homer, in his History of Newton, as published in the Massachusetts Historical Collections, V. 273, gives the names of these men as John Myrick, Nathaniel Healy and Ebenezer Seger, and says they were all three killed by the Indians. This statement, however, is inaccurate, as John Myrick was not one of the three soldiers, and, further-

more, was alive after this date. It is sufficiently clear from contemporaneous petitions among the Massachusetts Archives (LXXI. 345,419), that two of these men were brothers, by the name of Seger, and the third one was Nathaniel Healey. It was Ebenezer Seger who was killed, and, probably, Henry, Jr., who was taken prisoner.

At various times in its early history, the town was threatened by bands of roving Indians, who did whatever damage lay in their power to do. Such incursions kept the inhabitants on the alert, and from time to time companies were organized for the purpose of scouring the neighborhood.

On March 12, 1694–95, an Act was passed by the General Court, which prohibited the desertion of frontier towns by the inhabitants unless permission was first granted by the Governor and Council. There were eleven such towns, and Groton was one of them. The law required the inhabitants of these out-towns, who owned land or houses, to take out a special license, on pain of forfeiting their property, before they could quit their homes and live elsewhere. It was thought that the interest of the Crown would be prejudiced, and encouragement given to the enemy, if any of these posts were deserted, or exposed by lessening their strength. Many towns were threatened by the Indians about this time, and a few were attacked. It is recorded that some of the settlers here left the town, and there was probably a movement among the inhabitants in other places to do the same. This fact undoubtedly occasioned the enactment, which was to remain in force "unto the end of the session of the

general assembly to convene in May, one thousand six hundred ninety-six (if the present war so long last), and no longer, nor afterwards."

A similar Act was again passed on March 22, 1699-1700, which embraced fourteen frontier towns, of which Groton was one, and seven other towns that "lye more open than many others to an attack of an enemy." This enactment had a limitation in point of time similar to the preceding one. Subsequently this Act was revived on June 8, 1702, with the limitation, though no towns are specified by name; again on June 28, 1706, it was re-enacted, to remain in force until June 29, 1707; and still later, but not for the last time, it was passed on June 10, 1707. This continuous legislation to prevent the desertion of the frontiers shows clearly the unsettled condition of the outlying towns during Queen Anne's War, and Groton was no exception. The inhabitants were now living in constant dread of the savages. Sometimes an exposed farm-house was attacked and burned, some of the inmates killed and others carried away in captivity; sometimes the farmer was shot down while at work in the field, or while going or coming. This was the fate of John Shattuck, and his eldest son John, a young man nineteen years of age, who were killed on May 8, 1709.

They were returning from the west side of the Nashua River, where Mr. Shattuck owned land, and were attacked just as they were crossing the Stony Fordway, near the present site of Hollingworth's paper-mills, where they were killed. At the time of his death Mr. Shattuck was one of the selectmen of the

town. During the autumn of 1882 Messrs. Tileston and Hollingworth, of Boston, at that time the owners of the mill, caused a suitable stone to be placed by the wayside, bearing the following inscription :

NEAR THIS SPOT
JOHN SHATTUCK,
A SELECTMAN OF GROTON,
AND
HIS SON JOHN
WERE KILLED BY THE INDIANS,
MAY 8, 1709,
WHILE CROSSING STONY FORDWAY,
JUST BELOW THE PRESENT DAM.
1882.

A remarkable fatality seems to have followed Mrs. Shattuck's kindred. Her husband and eldest son were killed by the Indians, as has just been mentioned. Her father, James Blood, was likewise killed, September 13, 1692. So also were her uncle, William Longley, his wife and five children, July 27, 1694; and three others of their children were carried away into captivity at the same time. A relative, James Parker, Jr., and his wife were killed in this assault, and their children taken prisoners. Her step-father, Enoch Lawrence, received a wound in an engagement with the Indians, probably in the same attack of July 27, 1694, which almost wholly prevented him from earning a livelihood for himself and family. The three Tarbell children, who were carried off to Canada by the Indians, June 20, 1707, were cousins of Mrs. Shattuck. John Ames, who was shot by the savages

at the gate of his own garrison, July 9, 1724, was the father of Jacob, who married her niece, Ruth Shattuck. And lastly, her son-in-law, Isaac Lakin, the husband of her daughter Elizabeth, was wounded in Lovewell's Fight at Pequawket, May 8, 1725. These calamities covered a period of only one generation, extending from the year 1692 to 1725.

In a list of prisoners held by the French and Indians in Canada, March 5, 1710–11, are the names of "Zech: Tarbal, John Tarbal, Sarah Tarbal, Matt. Farnsworth [and] Lydia Longley" (Archives, LXXI. 765), all of Groton, though no date of capture is given. Lydia Longley was taken by the Indians on July 27, 1694, and the particulars of her case have already been told; Matthias Farnsworth was captured in the summer of 1704; and the Tarbell children were carried off on June 20, 1707. Sarah, John and Zechariah were children of Thomas and Elizabeth (Wood) Tarbell, who with a large family, lived on Farmers' Row, near where James Lawrence's house now stands. Sarah was a girl nearly fourteen years of age, John a lad of twelve years and Zechariah only seven, at the time when they were taken. They were near kindred of the Longley family, who had been massacred thirteen years before. The father was unquestionably the Corporal Tarbell who commanded, in the autumn of 1711, one of the eighteen garrisons in the town.

The story of their capture and captivity is a singular one, and sounds like a romance. They were picking cherries early one evening,—so tradition relates,—and were taken before they had time to get down from the tree. It should be borne in mind that

the date of capture, according to the new style of reckoning, was July 1st, when cherries would be ripe enough to tempt the appetite of climbing youngsters. These children were carried to Canada, where, it would seem, they were treated kindly, as no inducement afterward was strong enough to make them return permanently to their old home. The girl, Sarah, was sold to the French, and placed in a convent at Lachine, near Montreal; but what became of her subsequently I am unable to say.

Thomas Tarbell, the father of these children, made his will September 26, 1715, which was admitted to probate six weeks later, and is now on file at the Middlesex Probate Office in East Cambridge. After making certain bequests to different members of his family, he says:

"all the rest and residue of my Reall Estate I give to be Equally divided between my three children, John, Zachary, & Sarah Tarbell, upon their return from Captivity, or In Proportion unto any of them that shall return, & the rest, or the parts belonging to them that do not return, shall be Equally divided among the rest of my children."

During my visit at Montreal in the summer of 1877, I saw the Congregation of Nôtre Dame, the French record, of which the following is a translation:

"On Monday, July 23, 1708, the ceremony of baptism was performed on Sarah Tarbell, who was born at Groton in New England, October 9, 1693. Her parents were Thomas Tarbell and Elizabeth Wood, both Protestants, and she was baptized by the minister shortly after her birth. Having been taken by the savages on Monday, June 20, 1707, she was brought to Canada; she has since been sold, and has lived with the Sisters of the Congregation of Nôtre Dame, established at Lachine, where she abjured her religion on May 1. Her godfather was M. Jacques Urbain Robert de Lamorandière, Secretary of M. l' Intendant;

and her godmother was Madame Marguerite Bouat, wife of M. Etienne Pascaud, the deputy treasurer of the King in this country.

Her name Sarah has been changed to Marguerite.

"Signed,

"Mgte Bouat,
"Pascaud,
"Lamorandière,
"Meriel, Prêtre."

The boys remained for many years with their captors at Caughnawaga, an Indian village on the right bank of the St. Lawrence River, directly opposite to Lachine.

It is supposed that they left this place about the year 1760, when they moved up the river, in order to establish another settlement.

In the year 1713 John Stoddard and John Williams were appointed by Governor Joseph Dudley to go to Quebec and treat with the Governor-General of Canada for the release of the New England prisoners. They were accompanied by Thomas Tarbell, —probably the elder brother of the boys,—and we find his petition presented to the House of Representatives June 1, 1715, "praying consideration and allowance for his Time and Expences in going to *Canada*, with Major *Stoddard* & Mr. *Williams*, *Anno* 1713, to recover the Captives."

The petition was referred, and, on the next day,—

"Capt. *Noyes*, from the Committee for Petitions, made Report on the Petition of *Thomas Tarboll*, *viz.* That they are of Opinion that nothing is due from the Province to the said *Tarboll*, since he proceeded as a Volunteer in that Service to *Canada*, & not imployed by the Government, but recommended him to the favour of the House."

The report was accepted, and, in consideration of Tarbell's services, he was allowed ten pounds out of

the public treasury. Captain Stoddard's Journal, giving an account of the negotiations, is printed in "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (v. 26), for January, 1851, and Tarbell's name is mentioned in it.

We find no further trace of these boys, now grown up to manhood, during the twenty-five years following this attempt to release the New England prisoners. In the winter of 1739 John and Zechariah Tarbell came back to Groton in order to visit their kinsfolk and see their native town. They were so young when carried away that their recollections of the place were of course very indistinct. It is not known now under what circumstances or influences they returned. An itemized bill of the expense incurred in bringing them back from Canada was made out against their brothers, Thomas and Samuel, and perhaps paid by them. Shortly afterward Thomas Tarbell petitioned the General Court for means to enable him to meet the necessary charges of the journey, besides the expenses of an interpreter; and a conditional loan was granted. The record does not say whether it was ever paid back by him. The papers relating to the subject are among the Massachusetts Archives (XV. A, 15–19).

On April 20, 1739, Governor Belcher brought the case of these captives to the attention of the Council and the House of Representatives, when he made a speech, in which he said:

"There are lately come from Canada some Persons that were taken by the Indians from Groton above thirty Years ago, who (its believed) may be induced to return into this Province, on your giving them some proper Encouragement: If this Matter might be effected, I should

think it would be not only an Act of Compassion in order to reclaim them from the Errors and Delusions of the Romish faith; but their living among us might, in Time to come, be of great Advantage to the Province."

On the same day the subject was referred to a Committee of the House, who reported a resolution which was sent to the Council for concurrence; and on several occasions within a short time the same question came up in different forms.

All these efforts, however, to reclaim the two men from savage life proved unavailing; for it is known that they remained with the Indians and became naturalized, if I may use the expression. They married Indian wives, and were afterward made chiefs at Caughnawaga and St. Regis, villages in Canada. Their descendants are still living among the Indians, and the Tarbells of the present day, in this town, are their collateral kindred. Nearly forty years after their capture, Governor Hutchinson met them in New York State, and in his "History of the Province of Massachusetts Bay" refers to them thus:—

"I saw at Albany two or three men, in the year 1744, who came in with the Indians to trade, and who had been taken at Groton in this, that is called Queen Ann's war. One of them, —— Tarbell, was said to be one of the wealthiest of the Cagnawaga tribe. He made a visit in his Indian dress, and with his Indian complexion (for by means of grease and paints but little difference could be discerned) to his relations at Groton, but had no inclination to remain there." (II. 139.)

Some years after this time, these two young men—now occupying the position of chiefs—moved up the St. Lawrence River, accompanied by several others, all with their families, and established the village of St. Regis. This Indian settlement is pleasantly situated on the right bank of the St. Lawrence, the

boundary line which separates the State of New York from Canada running through it. From its peculiar position, it was agreed, during the last war with England, that the Indians should remain neutral, but the compact was often broken. In the summer of 1852 the tribe numbered about eleven hundred persons, of whom it is said that not one was of pure Indian origin.

Many interesting facts concerning the Tarbells at St. Regis are found in the "History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, New York" (Albany, 1853), by Dr. Franklin B. Hough. A part of the village comes within the limits of Franklin County; and the author has gathered up some of the stories still told about these two brothers in that neighborhood.

In former years the St. Regis Indians had certain rights in a land reservation in the State of New York; and more than once treaties were made between the Governor of the State and the chiefs of the tribe, among whom were descendants of these Tarbell boys. A treaty was signed on February 20, 1818, in behalf of the Indians, by Loran Tarbell and Thomas Tarbell, and two other chiefs. Another treaty was signed on September 23, 1825, by eleven chiefs and trustees of the tribe, including Peter Tarbell, Thomas Tarbell, Mitchel Tarbell, Louis Tarbell, and Battice Tarbell. Some of these names, I am sure, will sound familiar to the older inhabitants of Groton. It is very likely that Battice is the same as Sabattis, an Indian name, which is said to be a corruption of *Saint Baptiste*.

Dr. Hough writes about one of the earlier members of the family as follows:—

"A half-breed Indian, who usually was known as Peter the Big

SPEAK, was a son of Lesor Tarbell, one of the lads who had been stolen away from Groton by the Indians, and who subsequently became one of the first settlers who preceded the founding of St. Regis.

"He was a man of much address and ability as a speaker, and was selected as the mouthpiece of the tribe on the more important occasions that presented themselves." (Page 182.)

The statement is wrong, however, that Lesor was the name of one of the captured boys. It is perfectly well known that their names were John and Zechariah, but it is not improbable that one of their sons was named Lesor. If such was the case, it was intended, doubtless, for Eleazer, the name of their youngest brother, who was less than two months old when they were carried off. It certainly would be a touching tribute to their childish recollections if they had remembered this little babe at home and carried him in their thoughts for so many years.

In the summer of 1877 I visited St. Regis, where I met a grandson of one of the Tarbell captives. He was more than eighty years old, and could speak only Indian; and I had to talk with him through an interpreter. I learned that he was aware that his grandfather had been taken when a boy, from a town near Boston, and that he had kinsfolk still living there. What interested me exceedingly was the physical resemblance between him and some of his collateral relations, who lived and died at Squannacook within my recollection. He was a man of ordinary size, with a sunburnt face and gray hair, though somewhat bald. There was but little appearance of Indian blood in his veins, and he would have passed anywhere for a good-looking old man. He lived with one of his sons in a small house that was clapboarded and painted,—and

one of the best in the village,—where, surrounded by his grandchildren, he was passing the declining years of his life in comfortable ease.

During the summer of 1723 "the Indian enemy"—as the early settlers were wont to call them—still threatened the western frontier towns. On August 16, 1723, according to the printed Journal of the House of Representatives, Lieutenant-Governor Dummer, at that time the acting Governor of the Province, was desired immediately to order detachments of men, varying from three to six, from the inhabitants of the several towns along the line of outer settlements, to be constantly employed in scouting and ranging the woods in their respective towns; and under this order Groton was to have six. On August 24th it was ordered by the House of Representatives that these scouts should be placed under the direction of the chief military officer of the several towns, and such officer should receive five shillings a week for his services. Owing to informalities in the matter, a dispute arose between the House and the Lieutenant-Governor, who within two days sent two messages to that body, and some slight modifications were made in the original draft.

Penhallow, in "The History of the Wars of New-England," speaking of the Indians at this period, says:

"The next damage they did was at *Groton*, but were so closely pursued, that they left several of their Packs behind." (Page 102.)

It was on Thursday, July 9, 1724, that John Ames was shot by an Indian, one of a small party that attacked his garrison in the northwesterly part of the

town. Ames lived on the north side of the Nashua River, a short distance below the Hollingsworth paper-mills. He is said to be the last person killed by an Indian within the township. The Indian himself was immediately afterward shot by Jacob Ames, one of John's sons. *The Boston Gazette*, July 13, 1724, thus refers to the event:

"A man was kill'd last Week at *Groton*, by the Indians, and 't is suppos'd one Indian was kill'd by one of our Men in the Garrison; the Indians left their Packs, 5 in number, which were taken and secur'd by the English."

In the *Gazette* of July 27th it is said that "An Indian Scalp was brought to Town last Week from *Groton*."

The New England Courant, July 13, 1724, reports that "Last Week the Indians kill'd a Man at Groton, and had one of their own Men very much wounded." The same newspaper, in its issue of July 27th, says that "The Scalp of an Indian lately kill'd at Groton is brought to Town."

Jacob Ames' petition for an "Allowance" or bounty, for killing the savage, is found in the printed Journal of the House of Representatives, November 20, 1724.

In the summer of 1722 the Provincial governments of Massachusetts and New Hampshire offered a bounty of a hundred pounds for every Indian's scalp that should be taken and shown to the proper authorities. This legislation incited volunteers to scour the wilderness for the purpose of hunting the savages, and with this motive Captain John Lovewell, of Dunstable, organized a company which soon became famous.

The story of Lovewell's Fight was for a long time

repeatedly told in this neighborhood, and there is scarcely a person who has not from early infancy heard the particulars of that eventful conflict. It was in the spring of 1725 that Captain Lovewell, with thirty-four men, fought a famous Indian chief, named Paugus, at the head of about eighty savages, near the shores of a pond in Pequawket, now within the limits of Fryeburg, Maine, and known as Lovewell's Pond. Of this little Spartan band, seven belonged in this town; and one of them, John Chamberlain by name, distinguished himself by killing the Indian leader.

The fullest account of the Fight is found in a pamphlet entitled, "*Lovewell* Lamented, or, A SERMON occasion'd by the Fall of the Brave *Capt.* John Lovewell and Several of his *Valiant* COMPANY, in the late Heroic Action at Piggwacket Pronounc'd at *Bradford, May* 16, 1725 By *Thomas Symmes*, V.D.M." (Boston, 1725.) The sermon contains an historical preface, duly attested by three of the company, which gives many particulars of this ill-fated expedition. It includes a list of the men who took part in the fight, with the names of the killed and wounded. According to this list, the following Groton men were members of Lovewell's company and present during the action: John Jefts, Daniel Woods, Thomas Woods, John Chamberlain, Elias Barron, John Gilson [Isaac Lakin?], Joseph Gilson; of whom Thomas Woods, Daniel Woods and John Jefts were killed in the fight, and Elias Barron, John Chamberlain and John Gilson [Isaac Lakin?], wounded. It is stated by Mr. Symmes, in his preface, that Barron subsequently "strayed from

the rest, and got over *Ossipy River*, by the side of which his Gun Case was found, & he has ner been heard of since." (Page viii.) Joseph Gilson was the only one of this quota who escaped injury.

The first edition of the sermon was published on July 1st, and exhausted in a very few days. A second edition was issued about the middle of July, with a title-page somewhat changed from the original one, as follows: "*Historical Memoirs* Of the Late Fight at Piggwacket, with a SERMON Occasion'd by the Fall of the Brave Capt *John Lovewell* And Several of his Valiant Company; in the late *Heroic* Action there. Pronounc'd at *Bradford*, *May* 16, 1725 By THOMAS SYMMES, V.D.M. **The Second Edition Corrected.**" (Boston, 1725.) In this edition the running title of "An *Historical* PREFACE" is changed to "*Memoirs of the Fight at* Piggwacket." A few corrections are made; in the list both of the soldiers and of the wounded, the name of Isaac Lakin is given in the place of John Gilson's.

Captain Lovewell, the commander of the company, was a brave officer and a noted man. He was at this time in the prime of life, and ambitious to distinguish himself. He had previously led two successful expeditions against the Indians, and his very name inspired confidence. Only a few weeks before, his second expedition had returned to Dover, New Hampshire, where he made a triumphal entry at the head of his company. They bore ten Indian scalps stretched on hoops, and were received with great joy and excitement; thence they proceeded to Boston,

where they were paid a large bounty by the government. The following Groton men were members of the company which went on this second expedition: Jacob Ames, Ephraim Farnsworth, Reuben Farnsworth, Benjamin Parker, Samuel Shattuck, Samuel Tarbell and Henry Willard. Throughout New England, Lovewell's daring was made the subject of talk, and the public looked to him as a natural leader in border warfare.

With the small force now at his command, the heroic captain pressed forward to meet the enemy, and in a few days reached the borders of Saco Pond, since known as Lovewell's Pond, southeast of the present village of Fryeburg, Maine. On the morning of Saturday, May 8th, while engaged at prayers they heard a gun, and shortly afterward discovered an Indian on a point of land which ran into the pond. They were distrustful of an ambush, and a consultation was held in order to see whether they should advance or retreat. Their decision was to proceed at all hazards. They said: "We came out to meet the Enemy; we have all along prayed GOD we might find 'em; and we had rather trust Providence with our Lives, yea Dy for our Country, than try to Return without seeing them, if we may, and be called Cowards for our Pains." After this answer, Lovewell ordered his men to move forward cautiously; and they soon reached a place where they halted and took off their packs, and piled them up together. Leaving these behind without a guard, and advancing a short distance, they came upon the Indian whom they had previously descried. He was returning to his com-

panions with some game that he had killed. Several guns were instantly discharged at him, when he in turn fired and wounded Captain Lovewell and another man; after which he was killed and scalped. The company then turned back, and with their wounded leader repaired to the place where they had left their packs. In the meanwhile Paugus, the far-famed chief of the Pequawkets, at the head of eighty warriors on their way home from a marauding expedition, had discovered the pile of packs, and, counting them, had learned the number of the English. Finding that the force was much less than his own, Paugus placed his men in ambush and awaited the return of Lovewell. When the company came up for their packs, the Indians with hideous yells rushed forth suddenly from their hiding-places and began to fire. The brave captain ordered his men to return it, which was done with terrible effect. Lovewell himself fell at the first shot, and eight of his men soon shared the same fate. Ensign Wyman, of Woburn, then assumed the command, and, perceiving that the Indians were trying to surround them, ordered a retreat to the pond, where he took his stand. A ledge of rocks projecting into the water on one side of him, and a deep brook on the other, made a position favorable for defence. The fighting continued, and during the day the savages vainly endeavored to compel the valiant band to surrender; but they would not listen to the proposition. Paugus was slain in the action by John Chamberlain, of Groton. After the death of their chief the Indians became somewhat disheartened, and for a time withdrew from the skirmish. Later in

the day the combat was resumed, when, it is supposed, the enemy received reinforcements, but with no decisive result. As night approached they again withdrew, and left this little forlorn band masters of the field.

About midnight the survivors, with the exception of three men mortally wounded and unable to travel, fell back and directed their course to the fort, where they expected to find their former companions; but in this hope they were sadly disappointed. It seems that, at the beginning of the fight, a member of the company, escaping, made his way to the fort, and reported that Lovewell and his men were all cut to pieces, which he may have believed. Disappointed at finding the fort abandoned, the survivors of this memorable command made their way back to the settlements as best they could, coming in at different places along the frontier line.

The name of Lovewell at once became famous, and the story of the expedition was told in every household, and even in the pulpit. It was made the subject of ballads, which were sung at family firesides, and excited the popular heart with the memory of the brave and adventurous leader. Peace soon followed the action at Pequawket, and deep and sincere was the public feeling at its restoration.

John Chamberlain, the surviving hero of Lovewell's Fight, was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Chamberlain, of Chelmsford, where he was born March 29, 1692. The father was a carpenter and miller, who afterwards removed to Groton, and lived about a quarter of a mile northerly of Wattle's Pond, on the

left-hand side of the road to Hollis. He is supposed to have died about the year 1709. After the fight the son was known as "Paugus John," and bore that name through life. He owned a mill, situated near Brown Loaf, on a small stream formed by the confluence of Martin's Pond Brook and another, now called Paugus Brook.

His death took place about the year 1756, though no record of it is found. The appraisal of his estate was made on March 31, 1756, according to papers on file in the Middlesex Probate Office at East Cambridge.

If ever young Paugus came to Groton in order to avenge his father's death, and it seems probable from tradition that he did, it was undoubtedly at this place. Furthermore, there is a deep hole in Paugus Brook, known since the last century as Paugus Hole, wherein it is said that Chamberlain sunk the body of the Indian, after he had killed him. A small elm stands on the south bank of the brook, very near the place.

Many other tales about the Indians have come down by tradition, and some of them are probably true. The following story, told me by the late Charles Woolley, refers to Isaac Lakin, one of Lovewell's men:

Lakin lived in a log-house near the Nashua River, in the north part of the town. The house had no glass windows, but had shutters instead, and a door that swung on wooden hinges. One day an Indian was seen lurking about the house, and hiding behind the stumps, apparently bent on mischief. Lakin seized his gun, and, standing at a crack in the

shutters, told his wife to swing the door so that it would creak on its hinges. Hearing the noise, and seeing the door open, the Indian sprang from behind a stump, and started for the house, when Lakin fired and shot him dead. Seeing no sign of other Indians, after dark he dug a hole and buried him.

In the year 1744 war was again declared between England and France, called by the English colonists King George's War. Civilization had now pushed the belt of frontier towns far into the wilderness; and Groton was no longer exposed to the assaults of the Indians, though at times threatened with danger. Her sons and soldiers, however, were still found during this period, on the outer rim of settlements, whenever and wherever their services were needed, either to extend the borders or to defend them. A military organization was kept up in the town, ready for emergencies here or elsewhere in the neighborhood.

The first settlement of Charlestown, N. H.—then known as No. 4,—was made in the year 1740, by three brothers, Samuel, David, and Stephen Farnsworth, natives of Groton; and they were soon followed by Isaac Parker and his sons, and Obadiah Sawtell, also of this town. The Farnsworths were leading men at Charlestown, and they distinguished themselves on several occasions in fights with the Indians. Samuel Farnsworth, the eldest brother, was killed in a skirmish, May 2, 1746. David was taken prisoner by a party of French Indians, April 20, 1757, and carried to Canada. He managed to escape, and reached home not a long time probably after his cap-

ture. Stephen, the youngest brother, had also his bitter experience with the enemy. He was captured April 19, 1746, and taken to Montreal, where he remained seventeen long months before he was exchanged. His health was so broken down by the hardships of his captivity that he never fully regained it. He died September 6, 1771, leaving behind the reputation of a brave man and a good citizen.

Ebenezer Farnsworth, a native of Groton and a kinsman of the three brothers just mentioned, was captured August 30, 1754, by the St. Francis Indians, at Charlestown. He was carried to Montreal and held a prisoner during three years. His ransom was paid in the summer of 1755, but he was not then set at liberty. Mrs. Susanna Johnson and her sister, Miriam Willard, were taken at the same time. They were both daughters of Moses Willard, who had formerly lived in the south part of this town. A full account of the affair is given in "A Narrative of the Captivity of Mrs. Johnson," published at Walpole, New Hampshire, in 1796. Two years later, on June 18, 1756, Moses Willard, the father, was killed by the Indians, at Charlestown; and in the same attack his son, Moses, Jr., had a narrow escape from death by the hands of the savages, being severely wounded at the time.

Lieutenant Isaac Parker was taken by the Indians at the same time with Stephen Farnsworth, and remained in captivity until the following winter, when he was returned to Boston under a flag of truce.

The Sawtell family is also largely represented in

Charlestown, where the name is now spelled Sartwell. It is a numerous family in that town, and they sprang from the early settler, Obadiah, who went from Groton. He, too, had a sad experience in savage warfare, and once was captured by the Indians. He was taken by them on May 24, 1746, and remained a prisoner until August 20, 1747. He finally met his death at their hands on June 17, 1749, being attacked while ploughing in his corn-field, unsuspicious of any danger.

Charles Holden, Isaac Holden and Seth Walker, natives of Groton, were early settlers and proprietors of Charlestown. Moses Wheeler was another pioneer and a distinguished soldier, taking part in some of the fiercest encounters of the French and Indian War. He was a large man and noted for his strength. He was called by the Indians "the strong man." Moses Willard, Isaac Farwell and Micha Fuller, other settlers, were also from this town. Eleazer Priest, son of Joseph Priest, of Groton, and a soldier, was captured by the Indians, on March 15, 1748, at Charlestown, and died at Louisburg, Nova Scotia, in September of that year, while on his way home.

The earliest minister of Groton was the Reverend John Miller, who graduated at Gonvil and Caius College, Cambridge, England, in the year 1627, and came to this country in 1637. For a short time he lived in Roxbury, where he was one of the elders in Eliot's church. From the year 1639 to 1641, and perhaps later, he was settled in the ministry at Rowley as assistant to the Reverend Ezekiel Rogers; and during this period he filled the office of town clerk. He was

made a freeman of Massachusetts on May 22, 1639. In the autumn of 1641 he was waited on by messengers from Woburn, who desired his services for their church; but they found "Mr. Roggers loth to part with him."

Johnson, in his "Wonder-Working Providence of Sion's Saviour, in New England," refers to him both in prose and verse. The following is a specimen of the poetry :—

> "*With courage bold* Miller *through Seas doth venter,*
> *To Toyl it out in the great Western wast,*
> *Thy stature low one object high doth center;*
> *Higher than Heaven thy faith on Christ is plac't:*"
>
> —Chap. XI., p. 131.

From Rowley Mr. Miller removed to Yarmouth, where he was settled as a preacher, though the date of his removal to that town is not recorded. Nor is it known exactly when he came to Groton, but probably at some time during 1662, as in that year the town voted to build a house for the minister. On March 18, 1663, a vote was passed asking him "to continue still with vs for our further edificat[ion]," which shows that he was preaching at that date; but in three short months his labors ceased and he went to take his reward. In the first return of deaths, made by the town clerk of Groton to the recorder of the county, it says:—

"Mr. Jn°. Miller, minister of Gods holy word died. June 12th 1663."

The second minister of Groton was the Reverend Samuel Willard, a son of Major Simon and Mary (Sharpe) Willard, and born at Concord, on January 31, 1639–40. He graduated at Harvard College in

the class of 1659, and was the only member who took his second degree. He began to preach at Groton probably late in the year 1662, or early in 1663. In the latter year, on the 21st of June, it was voted "that Mr. Willard if he accept of it shall be their minester as long as he liues wᵉ Mr. Willard accepts Except a manifest providenc of God apears to take him off."

Mr. Willard was a scholar and writer of considerable note in his day, and even now would be considered such. But little is known of his early history; and no church-record during his ministry at Groton is extant. Coming here in the vigor of young manhood, at the age of twenty-three,—if we may judge him from the high position he afterward attained,—it is fair to assume that he exerted a strong influence in this neighborhood. It is probable that his early experiences on the outer rim of civilization fitted him for the places of honor and dignity that he was subsequently called upon to fill. A few weeks after his settlement he married Abigail, a daughter of John Sherman, minister of Watertown; and, after her death, he married, as his second wife, Eunice, daughter of Edward Tyng. He had a large family of children, of whom five were born in this town. One of his great-grandsons, Robert Treat Paine, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In the year 1673, Mr. Willard published a volume of sermons entitled, "Useful Instructions for a professing People in Times of great Security and Degeneracy: delivered in several Sermons on Solemn Occasions."

It consists of three sermons, of which one was preached on the occasion of a case of witchcraft which occurred in Groton. It is evident, from a reference in the sermon, that the fame or notoriety of the case had spread far from this town. Mr. Willard says: "There is a voice in it to the whole Land, but in a more especial manner to poor *Groton;* it is not a Judgement afar off, but it is near us, yea among us."

The book is inscribed, "To his Beloved Friends the Inhabitants of Groton." Like all the publications of that time, it is purely theological, and contains nothing now of particular interest. If he had given us even a few lines of town history, it would be almost invaluable. We look in vain through its pages for any thing that throws light on the manners and customs of the early settlers. We do find, however, the modes and habits of thought that were prevalent in those days; and with these we must be content, for the sermons furnish nothing more.

After the town was burned by the Indians in the spring of 1676 and the settlement deserted, Mr. Willard became the pastor of the Old South Church in Boston, where he died on September 12, 1707.

The third minister was the Reverend Gershom Hobart, a son of the Reverend Peter Hobart, of Hingham, and a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1667. In the early spring of 1678, just two years after the attack on the town, the old settlers returned to their former houses; and Mr. Hobart accompanied them, or soon followed. He was not ordained, however, until November 26, 1679; and soon afterward troubles between the people and the preacher began

to spring up. There was the usual controversy about the site of the new meeting-house, which is not peculiar to this town or to that period, but is common today here and elsewhere; and there was a dispute over the minister's salary. Mr. Hobart's pastorate was anything but happy and harmonious, and he appears to have left Groton about 1690. The records of this period are very meagre, but contain brief allusions to his absence. During the next two years there was no settled minister of the town, though the inhabitants were not without stated preaching. The Reverend John Hancock filled the pulpit for several months and received a call to become the minister, which was declined. He was the grandfather of John Hancock, Governor of the Commonwealth and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The fourth minister was the Reverend Samuel Carter, who came on an invitation given by the town, on October 21, 1692. It is evident, from the scanty records, that he accepted the call and remained with his people until the time of his death, which took place in the autumn of 1693. According to papers on file in the Middlesex Probate Office at East Cambridge, administration on his estate was granted on October 30th of that year. Mr. Carter was the eldest son of Thomas Carter, first minister of Woburn, and born on August 8, 1640. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1660, and, before coming to Groton, had been preaching at Lancaster for a considerable length of time. He was followed in time by Gershom Hobart, who became the fifth minister as well as the third, in the order of settlement. Mr.

Hobart came back to his former parish in the autumn of 1693, but it is not now known how the reconciliation was brought about between him and the town, as the church records of that period are lost; perhaps t was throu gh an ecclesiastical council. He continued to preach here until about the end of the year 1704, when he gave up his charge. His dwelling stood on the site of the present Baptist meeting-house, and, at one time during the Indian wars, was used as a garrison-house. On July 27, 1694, it was captured by the savages, when one of Mr. Hobart's children was killed, and another, Gershom, Jr., a lad eight or ten years old, was carried off a prisoner and held in captivity during nearly a year. Mr. Hobart, the father, died at Groton on December 19, 1705.

During the year 1705 the pulpit appears to have been filled by John Odly, as the records have it, and probably the same as John Odlin, a native of Boston and a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1702. On July 3, 1705, he received a call to be the "town's minister and the church's officer," which was not accepted.

The fifth minister was the Reverend Dudley Bradstreet, a son of Dudley Bradstreet, of Andover, and a grandson of Governor Simon Bradstreet. He was born at Andover on April 27, 1678, and a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1698. He was the first master of the grammar school in his native town, where he was teaching as early as the year 1704, and perhaps earlier.

It is highly probable that he was connected with

this school when he received his invitation to come to Groton. On May 4, 1704, he was married to Mary Wainwright, and they had three sons, and perhaps other children. Mr. Bradstreet was preaching here as early as March, 1706, but was not ordained until November 27th of that year. Under a vote of May 8, 1706, a house "of 38 foot long and 18 foot wide" was built for the minister, which is still standing, and in a state of good preservation. It is situated on the east side of Hollis Street, and the present measurements conform very nearly to the dimensions given in the records.

In the summer of 1712 Mr. Bradstreet was dismissed from his charge in this town, presumably for his Episcopal tendencies; and soon afterward he went to England to apply for orders in the Anglican Church. It appears from a copy of the original document in Latin, made in a manuscript volume, (page 90), by President John Leverett now deposited among the archives of Harvard University in the College Library, that he was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of London, on April 18, 1714, and a priest one week later, on April 25th. He died of small-pox during the next month, only two or three weeks after receiving priestly orders; and tidings of his death reached this country in the following summer.

The sixth minister was the Reverend Caleb Trowbridge, a son of Deacon James Trowbridge, of Newton. He was born on November 17, 1692, and graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1710. On March 10, 1715, he was married, first, to Sarah Oliver, of Newton; and on September 18, 1718, to Hannah

Walter, of Roxbury. Mr. Trowbridge was blessed with a family of nine children, and until recently some of his descendants were living at Groton. He died on September 9, 1760, and lies buried in the old burying-ground, where the inscription on a slab of slate laid over his grave makes a just statement of his religious and social character.

The seventh minister was the Reverend Samuel Dana, son of William Dana, and born in that part of Cambridge which is now Brighton, on January 14, 1738–39. He was a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1755, and ordained in the ministry at Groton on June 3, 1761. No articles of faith or church covenant appear on the church records until the period of his settlement. On May 6, 1762, he was married to Anna Kenrick, of Newton; and they had five children born at Groton. His pastorate appears to have been harmonious until the political troubles of the Revolution began to crop out, when a sermon preached by him in the early spring of 1775 gave great offence to his parish. Mr. Dana's sympathies were with the Crown, while those of the people were equally strong on the other side; and the excitement over the matter ran so high that he was compelled to give up his charge. After his dismissal from the town and church he remained at Groton during some years, preaching for a year and a half to a Presbyterian society, then recently organized; and later he removed to Amherst, New Hampshire, where he died on April 2, 1798.

The eighth minister was the Reverend Daniel Chaplin, a son of Jonathan Chaplin, of Rowley,

where he was born on December 30, 1743. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1772, and studied theology under the tuition of the Reverend Samuel Haven, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He was ordained at Groton on January 1, 1778, when he became pastor of the First Parish, and he continued to hold this relation until the time of his death, on April 8, 1831, being the last minister settled by the town. The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by his *Alma Mater* in the year 1817. On June 24, 1779, he was married to Susanna, eldest daughter of the Honorable James and Susanna (Lawrence) Prescott, of Groton. After their marriage they lived for awhile in the house built by Colonel William Lawrence, who was Mrs. Chaplin's grandfather. It was situated on the north corner of Main and Court Streets, latterly the site of Liberty Hall, which was burned on March 31, 1878; and subsequently they removed to the dwelling built by Major William Swan, and situated on School Street, north of the burying-ground.

Dr. Chaplin's youngest daughter, Mrs. Sarah (Chaplin) Rockwood, died in Cortland, Cortland County, New York, on November 26, 1889, at the remarkable age of 104 years and eighteen days.

The ninth minister was the Reverend Charles Robinson, the eldest son of Caleb Robinson, of Exeter, New Hampshire, where he was born on July 25, 1793. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1818, and was ordained over the Unitarian Church at Eastport, Maine, where he remained two years and a half. Mr. Robinson was installed at Groton on No-

vember 1, 1826, and resigned his charge in October, 1838. He was afterward settled at Medfield and at Peterborough, New Hampshire, but in the year 1860 he returned to Groton, where he resided until his death, on April 9, 1862. During his residence here he was married, on July 3, 1827, to Jane, only daughter of the Honorable Stuart John Park, of Groton, who died on March 23, 1828; and subsequently to three other wives.

The tenth minister was the Rev. George Wadsworth Wells, son of Seth and Hannah (Doane) Wells, of Boston, where he was born on October 17, 1804. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1823, and then pursued his theological studies at the Harvard Divinity School. For a while he preached in Boston and Baltimore, and, on October 24, 1827, was ordained at Kennebunk, Maine, as colleague pastor of the first Congregational Church in that town, where he remained during eleven years. On November 21, 1838, Mr. Wells was installed over the First Parish in Groton, where he preached with great acceptance and success until his death, which took place on March 17, 1843. The last time that he officiated in the pulpit was on Sunday, February 5th of that year. He was married on May 30, 1833, to Lucia Gardner, daughter of John Fairfield, of Boston. Just before graduation at college, his middle name was inserted by an Act of the Legislature, on June 14, 1823.

The eleventh minister was the Reverend Joseph Couch Smith, a native of Waltham, where he was born on July 18, 1819. He graduated at Bowdoin

College in the class of 1838, and subsequently passed two years at the Andover Theological Seminary. On October 11, 1842, he was ordained in Portland as an Evangelist. After Mr. Wells's death he came to Groton, and was installed on July 12, 1843. Here he remained during eight years, working diligently and faithfully in the cause of his Master, to which he had devoted his life. Finally the loss of his health compelled him to ask a dismission, and his relations to the society ceased in August, 1851. After passing six or eight months in foreign travel, and returning home much invigorated, he was called to the Channing Congregational Church, at Newton. Here he preached for four years, when his physical infirmities again compelled him to seek retirement from his cares and labors; and he sailed for the Sandwich Islands in the hope that he would still be able to act as an agent of the American Unitarian Association, but in this he was disappointed. After a rapid decline he died at Honolulu, of consumption, on December, 29, 1857.

Mr. Smith was twice married,—first, on August 31, 1843, to Augusta Hepsibah, daughter of Ivory and Louisa (McCulloch) Lord, of Kennebunk, Maine; and secondly, on December 8, 1846, to Margaret Ann, daughter of George and Margaret (Shattuck) Brigham, of Groton. His first wife died at Groton, on June 20, 1844, and his widow in Lowell, on March 31, 1864.

The twelfth minister was the Rev. Crawford Nightingale, a son of Samuel and Elizabeth Kinnicut, (Thompson) Nightingale, and born in Providence,

R. I., on November 3, 1816. He graduated at Brown University in the class of 1834, and at the Harvard Divinity School in 1838, and was ordained as an Evangelist, in Providence, on November 7, 1838. He was married, on May 13, 1846, to Mary Hoyt, daughter of William Henry and Frances Wiswall (Humphrey) Williams, of Athol. Mr. Nightingale was settled over the parish on January 26, 1853, and received his dismissal on September 1, 1866, though he continued to be a resident of the town until the year 1875. Before coming here he held a pastorate at Chicopee, and had previously acted as a missionary in Toledo, O., and in Chicago. He has now retired from the laborious duties of his profession, though he preaches occasionally, and is living at Dorchester.

The thirteenth minister was the Rev. George McKean Folsom, a son of Charles and Susanna Sarah (McKean) Folsom, and born in Cambridge on February 6, 1837. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1857, and at the Harvard Divinity School in 1866. He was ordained at Groton on December 12, 1866, and married, on January 8, 1867, to Susan Cabot, daughter of Charles, Jr., and Susan (Cabot) Jackson, of Boston. In April, 1869, he left Groton and removed to Dedham, where he was installed over another parish. He died in Boston on May 20, 1882, and his wife at Dedham on June 27, 1871. An only child, a daughter, born at Groton on November 16, 1867, survives the parents.

The fourteenth minister was the Rev. John Martin Luther Babcock, a son of James Babcock, of Ando-

ver, Me., where he was born on September 29, 1822. His father's family removed to Boston in the year 1825, where he remained until 1846. In early life he studied for the Baptist ministry, and joined the clerical profession in 1852, though he was not ordained until January, 1854. He held pastorates at different towns in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, but later he changed his denominational relations and entered the Unitarian pulpit, being settled at Lancaster, N. H., before coming to this town. He was installed over the First Parish on April 26, 1871, though he had been preaching here since December 1, 1870, and received his dismission on August 31, 1874, though he continued to fill the pulpit until April 1, 1875. Since leaving Groton he has given up the profession. On November 30, 1843, he was married (first) to Martha Day Ayer, of Plaistow, N. H., who died on January 26, 1846; and, secondly, on April 5, 1849, to Miriam Clement Tewksbury, of Wilmot, who died at New Hampton, N. H., on September 22, 1888.

The fifteenth minister was the Rev. Joshua Young, a son of Aaron and Mary (Coburn) Young, and born at Pittston, Me., on September 29, 1823. He graduated at Bowdoin College in the class of 1845, and at the Harvard Divinity School in 1848. He was married, on February 14, 1849, to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Sylvanus and Mary Bell (Warland) Plympton, of Cambridge. Mr. Young was settled in Groton at the beginning of 1875, and still continues to be the minister of the parish. Before coming to this town he had held pastorates in Burlington, Vt., and in Hingham and Fall River. On commencement,

June 26, 1890, he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from his *Alma Mater*.

The formation of a second church in Groton dates back to the summer of 1825, when the venerable Dr. Chaplin, enfeebled by age, became so infirm that he required the help of an assistant. At that time he was well past eighty years, and the powers of a vigorous manhood were beginning to fail him. On Sunday afternoon, July 10, 1825, a very hot day, Dr. Chaplin, near the end of his sermon, fainted in his pulpit; and soon after the question of settling a colleague pastor came up. This matter gave rise to much controversy and discussion, and resulted in a division of the old parish into two societies.

It happened during a period when throughout the Commonwealth many of the Congregational Churches were undergoing great changes in their creed, and were forming new lines of theological belief. Few persons of the present day are aware of the bitter animosity that prevailed in New England at that time, when these churches were torn asunder by internal dissensions, and of the sectarian feeling that followed the division of the parishes. At the beginning of the troubles the Reverend John Todd, a graduate of the Andover Theological Seminary in the class of 1825, had received a call to become a colleague pastor with Rev. Dr. Chaplin, but which, owing to certain informalities, was never recognized by the town, and over his settlement the main controversy had arisen. The second society, made up of those who had now separated from the First Parish, was duly organized and a house of worship built, which was

dedicated to the service of God on January 3, 1827, and at the same time Mr. Todd was ordained in the ministry. He remained as pastor of this society, which became known as the Union Congregational Church, until January 8, 1833, when he was dismissed at his own request.

The Reverend John Todd was the eldest child of Dr. Timothy and Phebe (Bud) Todd, and born in Rutland, Vt., on October 9, 1800. He graduated at Yale College in the class of 1822, and then entered the Theological Seminary at Andover. On March 11, 1827, he was married to Mary Skinner, daughter of the Reverend Joab Brace, of Newington, Conn., who died at Pittsfield on April 29, 1889. After leaving Groton, Dr. Todd held pastorates at Northampton, Philadelphia and Pittsfield, where he died on August 24, 1873, after an illness of three months. In the year 1845 the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Williams College. He was the author of more than thirty volumes, besides many sermons and pamphlets, including among them "The Student's Manual," a work which has exerted a wide influence on the young men of the country.

The second minister of the Union Church was the Reverend Charles Baker Kittredge, a son of Josiah and Mary (Baker) Kittredge, and born at Mount Vernon, N. H., on July 4, 1806. He graduated at Dartmouth College in the class of 1828, and at the Andover Theological Seminary in 1832. He was ordained at Groton on October 15, 1833, but the time of his ministry here was short, as he was dismissed on August 31, 1835. After leaving this town he was set-

tled over various parishes in different places, and died at Westborough on November 25, 1884. Mr. Kittredge was married, on July 9, 1830, to Sarah, daughter of Charles and Susanna (Bayliss) Brigham, of Grafton, who died on March 26, 1871.

The third minister was the Reverend Dudley Phelps, a native of Hebron, Conn., where he was born on January 25, 1798, and a graduate of Yale College in the class of 1823, and of the Andover Theological Seminary in 1827. He was ordained at Haverhill on January 9, 1828, where he remained until the year 1833, and during 1834 and 1835 was the editor of the *Salem Landmark*. Mr. Phelps was installed at Groton on October 19, 1836, where he continued as pastor of the church until his death, which took place on September 24, 1849. He was the father of the late Hon. Benjamin Kinsman Phelps, district attorney of New York, an only child by the first wife, who was Ann Kinsman, of Portland, Me. The second wife was Lucretia, daughter of the Hon. Benjamin Mark and Lucretia (Gardner) Farley, of Hollis, N. H., and of Groton, to whom he was married on October 12, 1837.

The fourth minister was the Reverend Edwin Adolphus Bulkley, a son of Erastus and Mary (Walbridge) Bulkley, and born in Charleston, S. C., on January 25, 1826. He graduated at Yale College in the class of 1844, and at the Union Theological Seminary in 1848, and was married, on September 28, 1848, at Huntington, Long Island, N. Y., to Catharine Fredrica, daughter of Daniel and Catharine Fredrica (Kunze) Oakley. Mr. Bulkley was installed

over the society on September 18, 1850, and dismissed on January 10, 1864. Before coming to Groton he was settled at Geneva, N. Y., and on leaving this town he went to Plattsburg. At the present time he has charge of a Presbyterian Church at Rutherford, N. J. He has been blessed with eight children, of whom three survive, and five of the eight were born at Groton. In the year 1868 the degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by the University of Vermont.

The fifth minister was the Reverend William Wheeler Parker, a son of Ebenezer and Hannah Brooks (Merriam) Parker, and born at Princeton on March 2, 1824. He graduated at the Andover Theological Seminary in 1858, and on August 24th, of that year, he was married at Holden to Emily, daughter of Joel and Diodamia Walker. Mr. Parker was installed at Groton on May 16, 1865, and dismissed at his own request on August 25, 1868. Since leaving this town he has lived in several places, but is now residing at Harwich Port.

The sixth minister was the Reverend Jeremiah Knight Aldrich, a son of Nehemiah Knight and Sarah Bowen (Branch) Aldrich, and born in Providence, R. I., on May 20, 1826. He became a licentiate after an examination before the Windham County (Connecticut) Association of Congregational Ministers, on June 4, 1862, and was ordained at Central Village, Plainfield, in that State, on February 17, 1863. He was settled at Groton on June 1, 1870, and dismissed at his own request on May 18, 1873. Mr. Aldrich was married, on June 3, 1848, in Providence, R. I., to Sarah Hamer, of Taunton.

The seventh minister was the Reverend Benjamin Adams Robie, a son of Thomas Sargent and Clarissa (Adams) Robie, and born at Gorham, Maine, on September 9, 1836. He graduated at the Bangor Theological Seminary in the class of 1865, and was married on July 6, 1869, at Vassalborough, to Lucy Hedge Wiggin, of that town. He was settled as pastor-elect on April 1, 1874, and resigned on April 1, 1884.

The eighth minister was the Reverend George Austin Pelton, a son of Asa Carter and Ophelia (Austin) Pelton, and born at Stockbridge, on April 15, 1833. He graduated at Yale College in the class of 1861, and at Andover Theological Seminary in 1864. He was licensed to preach by the Essex South Association in February, 1864, and ordained "to the work of the Gospel ministry" without installation, at Franklin, on August 9, 1865. Mr. Pelton was married in New Haven, Conn., on April 27, 1864, to Catharine Sarah, daughter of Seth Warner and Catherine Post Brownson. He was settled as pastor-elect on May 15, 1884, and resigned on May 15, 1886.

The ninth minister was the Reverend John Barstow, a son of Ezekiel Hale and Eunice (Clark) Barstow, and born at Newton Centre on February 16, 1857. He graduated at Dartmouth College in the class of 1883, and at the Andover Theological Seminary in 1887. He began his labors at Groton on April 1, 1887, and was ordained and installed on June 29th, of the same year. Mr. Barstow was married at Wethersfield, on July 5, 1887, to Mary Weller Wolcott, of that town. He was dismissed at his own re-

quest on September 12, 1889, and is now settled over a society at Glastonbury, Conn. At one time his father was the principal of Lawrence Academy.

The tenth minister is the Reverend Edward Leeds Gulick, the present pastor. He is a son of the Reverend Luther Halsey and Louisa (Lewis) Gulick, and born in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, on March 21, 1862. He graduated at Dartmouth College in the class of 1883, and at the Union Theological Seminary, New York, in 1887. He began his labors on October 27, 1889, and was ordained on December 23d of the same year.

A Baptist Society was organized on December 5, 1832, and the Rev. Amasa Sanderson was the first minister. Captain Josiah Clark, one of the members, generously gave them the use of a commodious hall in the third story of a house at the south corner of Main Street and Broad Meadow Road. In the year 1841 the society erected a meeting-house on the spot where the Rev. Mr. Hobart's dwelling stood, which was a garrison-house in the summer of 1694.

Mr. Sanderson was a native of Gardner, Mass., where he was born on April 16, 1796. He was married, first, at Weston, in 1822, to Abigail Rand, who died on January 3, 1867; and, secondly, at Nashua, New Hampshire, in July, 1867, to Mrs. Mary Rebecca (Batchelder) Woodbury, widow of Seth Woodbury. Mr. Sanderson supplied the pulpit until May, 1843, when from feeble health he resigned his charge. He died in Nashua, New Hampshire, on June 1, 1877, and buried at Ayer.

The Rev. Alfred Pinney, of Auburn, New York,

was the second minister, and had charge of the society from August, 1843, to August, 1844. He is a son of Joshua Lasselle and Mary (Lake) Pinney, and born at Middlefield, Otsego County, New York, on October 15, 1812. In early life he studied the profession of medicine, which he practised for a while, but soon afterward gave up in order to enter the ministry. He began a course of study in the academic department of Madison University at Hamilton, New York, with a view to graduate from the college and the Theological Seminary, but owing to trouble with his eyes he was compelled to abandon the plan. On June 8, 1841, Mr. Pinney was married in Troy, New York, to Olivia Marcia Brownell ; and he is now living at No. 95 Madison Street, Brooklyn.

The Rev. Lewis Holmes, a native of Plymouth, was the third minister. Born on April 12, 1813, he graduated at Waterville College (now Colby University) in the class of 1840. He was settled at Groton in May, 1845, and remained until May, 1849. Mr. Holmes was settled over various societies in Massachusetts, and died at Plymouth on May 24, 1887.

The Rev. John Allen was the fourth minister, and his pastorate extended from June, 1849, to September, 1853. He was born at Mansfield on March 27, 1792, and died at East Providence Centre, Rhode Island, on November 28, 1882. He was married, first, in the year 1816, at Easton, to Sally Bonney ; and secondly, on April 22, 1856, in Boston, to Mrs. Anna (Carpenter) Carpenter, daughter of Caleb Carpenter, and a native of Rehoboth. His father's name was Joseph Allen.

The Rev. George Everett Tucker was the fifth min-

ister, and his service began in November, 1853, and lasted until June, 1857. Born at Canton on February 29, 1820, he fitted for college at Pierce Academy, of Middleborough and graduated at Brown University in the class of 1842. He has held pastorates at various places in Rhode Island and Maine, and died at Dedham on October 24, 1888, while on a visit, though his home was at Brunswick, Maine.

The Rev. Lucius Edwin Smith was the sixth minister, and served the society from December, 1857 to September, 1865. Mr. Smith is a native of Williamstown, where he was born on January 29, 1822, and a graduate of Williams College in the class of 1843. He first studied law in his native town and was admitted to the bar in the year 1845; afterward studied divinity and graduated at the Newton Theological Seminary in 1857. His editorial services have been extensive, and he is now associate editor of the *Watchman* (Boston). The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by his *Alma Mater* in 1869.

The Rev. Oliver Ayer was the seventh minister, and had charge of the society from April, 1866, till March 29, 1874. He is a son of Daniel and Nancy (Day) Ayers, and was born at Plaistow, New Hampshire, on August 2, 1810. He graduated at Brown University in the class of 1834, in the same class with the Rev. Crawford Nightingale, of Groton, and immediately after graduation became the principal of Rockingham Academy at Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. In the year 1837 he was ordained at Littleton, Massachusetts, where he was the pastor of the Baptist Church until 1843, and then, after a settlement at Dover,

Claremont and Deerfield, all in the State of New Hampshire, he came to Groton in the spring of 1866.

After leaving his town he was settled for six years over a society at North Oxford, since which time he has been living in Providence, with no pastoral charge. Mr. Ayer was married, first, on November 5, 1835, to Caroline Persis, daughter of William and Elizabeth (How) Garland, of Portsmouth, who died on September 23, 1857; and, secondly, on September 16, 1862, to Susan French Sargent, of Lebanon, New Hampshire.

The Reverend Benjamin Franklin Lawrence was the eighth minister, and settled over the society from July, 1874, to August, 1880. He graduated at Colby University in the class of 1858, and studied at the Newton Theological Institution during the years 1859 and 1860. He has had charge of various parishes in New England, and is now at East Jefferson, Maine.

The Reverend Herman Franklin Titus served the church from December, 1880, to February, 1881, without settlement. He is a son of Moses and Sophronia (Patch) Titus, former residents of the town.

The Reverend Thomas Herbert Goodwin was the ninth minister, and settled over the society from October, 1881, to January, 1884. He is a son of Benjamin and Lucy Adams (Mixer) Goodwin, and born in Manchester, New Hampshire, on July 4, 1847. He was married, on March 23, 1871, at New London, New Hampshire, to Arvilla Olive Pattee, and is now living at North Hanover.

The Reverend Frank Curtis Whitney was the tenth

minister, and settled over the church from August 1, 1884, to October 1, 1889. When he left the society he went to Minnesota.

The Reverend Samuel Bastin Nobbs, the present pastor, is the eleventh minister, and took charge of the congregation on December 1, 1889. He is a son of James and Eliza (Haynes) Nobbs, and born at Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire, England, on July 1, 1862. After a short residence in Australia he joined his parents in their removal from England to New York in September, 1881. Receiving his preparatory education at Gloucester, England, he entered the Theological Seminary at Hamilton, New York, in the year 1885, where he graduated in 1888. His first pastorate was at Newport, Vermont. Mr. Nobbs was married, on July 1, 1886, to Loue Maud Richardson, of Hamilton, New York.

During the year 1885 a house of worship was built at West Groton, which was dedicated on October 7, according to the ritual of the Methodist Church. The Congregational, Baptist, and Episcopal Societies of the town were well represented on the occasion, and everybody seemed to feel that the new building was a benediction to the village. In the "Life of John Todd" (page 181), written by his son, there is an early allusion to a chapel built during the winter of 1827, as follows: "My friends are preparing me a pretty chapel over at this spot [West Groton], and as soon as it is finished I am to open a battery there." All recollection of this building among the inhabitants of the village has now passed away.

During the first three years after the present church

was built, services therein were conducted under the auspices of the Methodist denomination, but since that period the society has made arrangements with the Congregational minister at Groton to supply the pulpit, and he preaches on each Sunday afternoon.

Services of the Episcopal Church were begun in connection with the Groton School at its opening in October, 1884. The parish is called St. John's Chapel of Groton School, and the sittings in the church are free. The services are conducted by the head master, Reverend Endicott Peabody. The present chapel was built in the year 1887, and consecrated on January 8, 1888, by the Bishop of the Diocese.

LAWRENCE ACADEMY.—During the early part of the year 1792 a voluntary association was formed at Groton, by certain people of the town and neighborhood, in order to establish an academy where a higher education could be obtained than was given at the district schools of that period. A subscription paper was circulated for the purpose of procuring funds to erect a suitable building. A subscription of five pounds currency was the smallest sum received from any person, and was denominated a share; ten pounds was called two shares; and so on. On April 27, 1792, the association organized by choosing trustees and the other customary officers; and from this as a beginning sprang the institution known formerly as Groton Academy, but now as Lawrence Academy. When it was first opened, in the spring of 1793, the exercises were held in the district school-house, on Farmers' Row. By a resolve of the Legislature, on Feb. 27, 1797, a grant of land was given to the academy,

which consisted of half a township situated in Washington County, District of Maine. It comes now in Hodgdon, Aroostook County, and lies on the eastern frontier of the State, just south of Houlton.

Among the early friends and benefactors of the institution may be mentioned,—Benjamin Bancroft, Timothy Bigelow, James Brazer, Aaron Brown, Francis Champney, Daniel Chaplin, Samuel Dana, Nathan Davis, Zechariah Fitch, Samuel Hemenway, Samuel Lawrence, Joshua Longley, Joseph Moors, William and Oliver Prescott, Samuel Rockwood, William Swan and Samson Woods.

During the summer of 1841 the Academy building was remodeled for the first time and somewhat enlarged by an addition to the rear, at a cost of $2000, generously given for the purpose by Amos Lawrence, Esq., of Boston. The grounds also were improved, and a fence, consisting of stone posts and chains, placed in front of the yard, as well as on the south side, separating it from the Brazer estate.

In the spring of 1844 William Lawrence, Esq., of Boston, an elder brother of Amos, gave the sum of $10,000 to be added to the permanent funds of the institution. In consequence of this liberal gift and other manifestations of their interest in the school, on the part of the two brothers, the trustees voted the annual meeting, on August 20, 1845, to petition the General Court to change the corporate name of the school to "The Lawrence Academy of Groton." At the next session of the Legislature the petition was duly presented and granted on February 28, 1846.

The benefactions of the Lawrence brothers did not cease with the change of name in the school. During the month of July, 1846, Amos Lawrence, Esq., bought the Brazer estate (so called), adjoining the Academy lot on the south, and formerly belonging to James Brazer, Esq., for the sum of $4400, and soon afterward conveyed it by deed to the trustees of Lawrence Academy. He also requested that all the buildings and fences on the place should be put in complete repair at his expense, which was accordingly done at a cost of more than $1200. During the next month William Lawrence, Esq., wrote to the trustees, offering to give $5000 to be used for the enlargement of the Academy building, for the erection of a substantial stone and iron fence in front of the grounds, including the Dana and Brazer estates, and for the purchase of another bell for the school. The Dana estate, adjoining the Academy lot on the north, had formerly belonged to the Hon. Samuel Dana, and was bought by the trustees in the summer of 1836. With this sum, thus generously placed in their hands, the trustees, during the ensuing autumn, enlarged the Academy by an extension on its north side, and very soon afterward carried out his wishes in the other matters. At Mr. Lawrence's death, which occurred on October 14, 1848, he bequeathed the sum of $20,000 to the institution.

Unfortunately, the main building of the Academy was burned to the ground on July 4, 1868, and a structure of brick and stone erected on the same site, which was dedicated June 29, 1871.

A celebration in connection with the history of

Lawrence Academy took place on July 12, 1854, when an address was delivered by the Rev. James Means, a former principal of the institution. It was a distinguished gathering, and known at that time as the "Jubilee." A full account of the proceedings was afterward published, with a general catalogue of the school from its beginning. Another re-union was held on June 21, 1883, when a dinner was given in the Town Hall to the old pupils. The assemblage was not so large as the previous one, but quite as enthusiastic. The wish was generally expressed that the centennial anniversary of the school, which comes in the year 1893, should be duly celebrated. The proceedings on this occasion also were printed in a pamphlet form.

During the early days of New England there was no distinct class of men following the profession of medicine, but the practice was taken up in connection with some other calling. In every community either the minister or the schoolmaster or some skilled nurse was expected to act in cases of need, and, for the most part, such persons performed the duties now undertaken by the faculty. In the early part of 1672 the Rev. Samuel Willard wrote a long account of a case of witchcraft which befell Elizabeth Knapp, of Groton, and he relates how the "Physitian" came to see her on November 5, 1671, when he gave his judgment on the case, or, in other words, made the diagnosis. It would be an interesting fact to know who was the doctor then practicing in the neighborhood, but this is now beyond the reach of historical inquiry.

The earliest physician in Groton, mentioned by name, of whom I have found any trace, is Dr. Henry Blasdell, who was impressed into the public service by Colonel Edmund Goffe. On May 28, 1725, he petitioned the General Court that an allowance be made him for his professional services and for medicines furnished during the campaign of the previous autumn, while he was surgeon to the western forces. The amount of his bill was £26 14*s.* and the General Court allowed him £17 9*s.*

Dr. Ezekiel Chase, of Groton, was married at Newbury, on May 20, 1729, to Priscilla Merrill, of that town. She was a daughter of Nathan and Hannah (Kent) Merrill, and born at Newbury, on October 16, 1703.

Dr. Benjamin Morse was a son of Dr. Benjamin and Abigail (Dudley) Morse, and born at Sutton on March 20, 1740. He was married, on November 27, 1760, to Mary, daughter of Isaac and Sarah Barnard, also born at Sutton, on September 13, 1741; and while living in that town they had a family of six children.

Dr. Morse came to Groton probably during the Revolutionary period, and was a Representative to the General Court in the session of 1784, and several succeeding ones; and he was also a delegate to the Convention for adopting the Constitution of the United States, in the year 1788, where he opposed the adoption. He lived in the south part of the town, near the present village of Ayer; and the site of his house is laid down on the map of Groton, published in 1832. He died on May 31, 1833, aged ninety-three

years, and his widow, on December 16, 1835, aged ninety-four years.

Dr. Ephraim Ware, a physician of Groton, was married at Cambridge, on October 13, 1785, to Mrs. Abigail Gamage. He was a native of Needham, and born on January 14, 1725. His first wife was Martha, daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth Parker, of Groton, where they were married on July 26, 1764. She was born on January 7, 1737, and died at Groton on April 4, 1776. After their marriage they went to Dedham to live, as the records of that town say: "The Selectmen on the 2d Day of Augt., 1765, gave Orders to Israel Everett, Constable, to warn Ephraim Ware, Martha Ware [and three others] to depart this Town in 14 Days, or give Security to indemnify the Town." Such orders were in accordance with an old practice, then common throughout the Province, which aimed to prevent the permanent settlement of families in towns where they might become a public burden. Their two eldest children, both boys, were born at Dedham; and three other children—a daughter, Sarah, and two sons, who both died in infancy—were born at Groton. Sarah, born on September 18, 1769, was married to Richard Sawtell, of Groton, on March 10, 1796, and died on March 23, 1851, having been the mother of nine children.

Dr. Ephraim Woolson was practicing medicine at Groton in the year 1766. He was a son of Isaac and Sibyl Woolson, and born at Weston on April 11, 1740. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1760, and was married to Mary Richardson on July 29, 1765. Dr. Woolson appears to have been living

at Weston just before his residence at Groton, and in the year 1767 he bought land at Princeton, where six of his children were born. He was a justice of the peace, and is said to have died in the year 1802.

Dr. Jonathan Gove was a son of John and Tabitha (Livermore) Gove, and born in that part of Weston which is now Lincoln, on August 22, 1746. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1768, and studied medicine under the instruction of Dr. Oliver Prescott, of Groton. About the year 1770 he was married to Mary, daughter of Nathan and Mary (Patterson) Hubbard, of this town, and here John and Lucinda, their two eldest children, were born and baptized. This son graduated at Dartmouth College in the class of 1793, studied law and died at Chillicothe, Ohio, in the year 1802. From Groton Dr. Gove removed to New Boston, New Hampshire, where three more children were born. His wife was born at Groton on January 9, 1748, and died at New Boston. He was married, secondly, on January 6, 1791, to Polly Dow, who became the mother of three children. Dr. Gove subsequently removed to Goffstown, New Hampshire, and died there on March 24, 1818.

Dr. Samuel Farnsworth was the youngest child of Isaac and Anna (Green) Farnsworth, and born at Groton on September 29, 1767. He was married, on November 25, 1788, to Betsey, daughter of Captain Zachariah and Lydia (Tuck) Fitch, and they had a family of eight children, of whom two sons, Samuel and Benjamin Franklin, were graduates of Dartmouth College in the class of 1813. Dr. Farnsworth subsequently removed to Bridgeton, Maine, where he had a

successful career as a physician. His eldest child, Betsey, was born at Groton on July 2, 1789, and the next one, Samuel, at Bridgton on October 9, 1791; and the removal from this town took place in the year 1790. He died on November 4, 1817.

These several physicians practiced their profession in the neighborhood of Groton, though they had never taken medical degrees. Before the present century this was a common custom throughout the country; and the instances were very exceptional where practitioners could rightfully append M.D. to their names. As a class they were men of shrewd sense and acute observers, and their practice was attended with success. Perhaps they made a better use of their opportunities than we make to-day with our richly endowed medical schools and numerous hospitals.

During the last century Dr. Oliver Prescott was an eminent physician of Groton, and he took high professional rank throughout the Province. He was the youngest of three distinguished brothers, of whom the eldest was Judge James Prescott, who filled many important positions in civil life as well as in military circles; and the second was Colonel William Prescott, who commanded the American forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Both Dr. Oliver Prescott and his son, Dr. Oliver Prescott, Jr., occupied exceptional place among the physicians of Middlesex County.

Dr. Oliver Prescott was a son of the Honorable Benjamin and Abigail (Oliver) Prescott, and born at Groton on April 27, 1731. He graduated at Harvard College with the highest honors in 1750, and then studied medicine under the tuition of Dr. Ebenezer

Robie, of Sudbury. On October 19, 1756, he was married to Lydia, daughter of David and Abigail (Jennison) Baldwin, of Sudbury, and they had eight children. His high standing in the profession gave him a place as a charter member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1781, and at the commencement of 1791 Harvard College conferred upon him the honorary degree of M.D. He was also the president of the Middlesex Medical Society during the whole period of its existence. Apart from his professional laurels he likewise enjoyed many civil and military honors.

Dr. Prescott was town clerk during thirteen years, and selectman during thirty-two years. Before the Revolution he held the offices of major, lieutenant-colonel, colonel and general, respectively, in the militia. Subsequently, in the year 1778, he was appointed third major-general of the militia, and in 1781 second major-general, but soon afterward, on account of ill health, he resigned the position. He was a justice throughout the Commonwealth, a member of the Board of War, a member of the Council of Massachusetts, until he declined the office, and, in the year 1779, was appointed Judge of Probate, and continued as such until his death. He took an active part in suppressing Shays's Rebellion, which had many supporters in this neighborhood. Dr. Prescott was one of the original trustees of Groton Academy, and the first president of the board; and he was also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He died on November 17, 1804, aged seventy-three years, and his wife on September 27, 1798, aged sixty-two years.

Dr. Oliver Prescott, Jr., was the eldest son of Dr. Oliver Prescott, and born at Groton on April 4, 1762. He pursued his preparatory studies under Master Moody at Dummer Academy, and graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1783. He studied medicine under the direction of his father and Dr. James Lloyd, of Boston, and established himself in practice in his native town. With every social advantage in his favor he at once took high rank as a physician, and soon enjoyed a wide reputation. On Feb. 22, 1791, he was married to Nancy, daughter of Captain Leonard and Ann (Hall) Whiting, of Hollis, N. H., and they had nine children. His wife died on Sept. 13, 1821, aged fifty-eight years; and he was married, secondly, on Nov. 6, 1823, to Mrs. Elizabeth (Atkins) Oliver, who was born on Dec. 30, 1762, and died on May 21, 1835. Dr. Prescott was the town clerk and chairman of the selectmen from the year 1804 to 1811, and represented the town in the General Court during the sessions of 1809 and 1810. He was a trustee of Groton Academy from the time of its incorporation until 1811, when he removed to Newburyport, where he died on September 26, 1827.

Dr. Joseph Mansfield was a son of Richard and Elizabeth (Whittemore) Mansfield, and born in Lynn on December 17, 1770. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1801, and among his classmates were Tyler Bigelow, Thomas Bond, James Abbot Cummings, Timothy Fuller, Luther Lawrence, Stephen Minot and William Bant Sullivan, either natives or at some time residents of Groton. Both while an undergraduate, and while studying his profession, he

kept the district school on Farmer's Row, and even after he had acquired his profession he taught the same school with the understanding that his hours of instruction should conform somewhat to the needs of his practice. While in college he took high rank as a scholar, and, at an exhibition near the end of his junior year, he delivered a poem which attracted some attention in literary circles, and subsequently was printed. He studied medicine with Dr. Oliver Prescott, Jr., and, on June 11, 1805, was married to Abi, daughter of Benjamin and Meriel (Nichols) Hartwell. About the year 1810 he built the large dwelling, with brick ends, near the Baptist meeting-house, where he resided until his death, which took place on April 23, 1830.

His son, Dr. George Mansfield, born at Groton on October 8, 1807, studied medicine and graduated at the Harvard Medical School in the class of 1832. He was married, on November 15, 1832, to Hannah Maria Curtis, of Boston, and died at Janesville, Wisconsin, on July 25, 1869.

Dr. Amos Bancroft was a son of Edward and Rachel (Howard—Barron) Bancroft, of Pepperell, where he was born on May 23, 1767. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1791, and from the same institution took the degree of Bachelor of Medicine in the year 1794. He began the practice of his profession at Westford, but soon afterwards removed to Weston, where he remained until the year 1811. He was married—first, on August 29, 1796, to Abigail, daughter of Captain Leonard and Ann (Hall) Whiting, of Hollis, New Hampshire, who was born on

March 25, 1772, and died at Weston, on December 4, 1799; secondly, on October 7, 1800, to Sarah, daughter of Henry and Faith (Savage) Bass, of Boston, who was born on April 21, 1768, and died on April 30, 1837; thirdly, on October 17, 1839, to Eliza Doane, of Boston, who died on November 11, 1840; and fourthly, on October 31, 1841, to Mary, daughter of Richard and Martha (Hall) Kneeland, of Westford, who was born on February 25, 1789, and died on April 22, 1862.

Dr. Bancroft had a large practice and, at various times, a considerable number of medical students under his tuition, including among them the brothers James Freeman Dana and Samuel Luther Dana, who were grandsons of the Reverend Samuel Dana, a former minister of the town, and graduates of Harvard College in the class of 1813. He was frequently called in consultation by other physicians, and often at a long distance from home. In those days there were no railroads, and traveling was attended with many difficulties. During the winter, when the roads were blocked up with snow, he was obliged, sometimes, to travel on snow-shoes; and, as his patients lived many miles apart, he was often absent from home for several successive days. To add to his discomfort on such occasions it was difficult to obtain proper food, though there were at that period but few dwellings where he could not obtain some New England rum or other spirit to help restore exhausted nature. In the year 1811 his *Alma Mater* conferred upon him the honorary degree of M.D.

On July 12, 1848, while walking down State Street,

in Boston, he stepped from the sidewalk, in order to cross the way, when a wagon, coming along rapidly, knocked him down, and injured him so severely that he died in the course of a few hours.

Dr. Mansfield and Dr. Bancroft were the last physicians of the town, who, while visiting patients, used to ride on horseback with saddle-bags, although they also drove much in sulkies. In early days, owing to bad roads, physicians on their professional rounds were in the habit of riding, and it was near the beginning of the present century, in this neighborhood, that the sulky, or covered gig, came into fashion among them. At the present time the four-wheeled buggy solely is used by physicians.

Dr. Joshua Green was a son of Joshua and Mary (Mosley) Green, and born at Wendell, on October 8, 1797. He attended school at the academies in New Salem, Westfield and Milton, and graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1818. He studied medicine in the office of Dr. John Collins Warren, of Boston, and took the degree of M.D. at the Harvard Medical School in the year 1821. Soon after taking this degree he was appointed apothecary at the Massachusetts General Hospital, then just opened for the reception of patients, where he remained for one year. At that time the apothecary, in addition to his own duties, performed those of the house-physician and the house-surgeon. In March, 1823, Dr. Green began to practice his profession at Sunderland, and on January 5, 1824, was married to Eliza, daughter of Major Samuel and Susanna (Parker) Lawrence, of Groton. His wife was born on March

13, 1796, and died on August 20, 1874. During a winter of his college course he taught a district school at Groton, now known as the Moors School, and boarded in the family of Major Lawrence, who lived on Farmers' Row.

In the spring of 1825 Dr. Green removed to Groton, where he continued the practice of medicine, but after about ten years, owing to ill health, he gradually gave up his profession. In the year 1832 a pulmonary hemorrhage compelled him to pass a winter in the island of Cuba, where to a fair degree he regained his health. He joined the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1826, and for many years was one of its councillors. He represented the town in the Legislature during the years 1836 and 1837, and was one of the trustees of Lawrence Academy from 1831 to 1867, and during most of this time either the secretary or the president of the board. On the seventy-fourth anniversary of his birth (October 8, 1871) he had a paralytic stroke, from the effects of which he never fully recovered. After the death of his wife he went to live with his only daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Lawrence (Green—Kendall) Swan, at Morristown, New Jersey, where he died on June 5, 1875.

Dr. Micah Eldredge was a son of Hezekiah and Abigail (Whiton) Eldredge, and born at Ashford, Connecticut, on May 24, 1776. He studied medicine with an elder brother, Dr. Hezekiah Eldredge, and in 1798 began the practice of his profession at Dunstable, where he resided for many years, living first on one side of the State line and then on the other. On October 1, 1797, Dr. Eldredge was married

to Sally, daughter of Tilly and Abigail (Hale) Buttrick, of Princeton. In 1826 he removed to Groton, where he remained for two years, when he established himself at Dunstable, New Hampshire, (now Nashua). The honorary degree of M.D. was conferred upon him by Dartmouth College in 1841. He died at Milford, New Hampshire, on July 2, 1849, and was buried in the Hollis Street Cemetery at Nashua.

Dr. Jacob Williams was a son of Jacob and Hannah (Sheple) Williams, and born at Groton on July 16, 1789. About the year 1816 he was practicing medicine at the Gilmanton Iron Works, New Hampshire, and in June, 1822, he was married to Irene Locke, of Epsom. In the year 1828 he returned to his native town and established himself as a physician; and while here his wife died on March 11, 1831. During the next year he was married, secondly, to Betsey Wakefield, of Kennebunk, Maine. He remained at Groton until the year 1835, when he removed to Kensington, New Hampshire, where he died on July 7, 1857.

Dr. James Wilson was a son of the Honorable Abiel and Abigail (Putnam) Wilson, and born at Wilton, N. H., December 4, 1796, on the farm where his great-grandfather, Jacob Putnam, began a settlement in the year 1739. He studied medicine under the tuition of Dr. John Wallace, of Milford, New Hampshire, and graduated at the Dartmouth Medical School in the class of 1821. He was practicing his profession at Boston in the early part of 1825, as his name appears in the directory of that year, and he removed to Groton near the beginning of 1828. He was married, in

February of that year, to Elizabeth P. Wilson, of Boston, a daughter of the city crier; and he came here under the patronage of Dr. Amos Bancroft, who desired some respite from a large practice, and acted as his sponsor in the community. After living at Groton during two years he returned to Boston and passed a brief period, and then removed to New York, where he remained for a short time. Soon afterward he went to Cuba, where he spent the remainder of his days, and died in Matanzas on November 23, 1868.

Dr. George Stearns was the youngest child of Ephraim and Molly (Gilman) Stearns, and born at Walpole, New Hampshire, on May 10, 1802. He graduated at the Harvard Medical School in the class of 1827, and began the practice of his profession in Boston, where he remained about three years, when he settled at Groton. He was married, on July 2, 1868, to Mrs. Ann (Moulton) Gilson, widow of Joshua Gilson, of Groton. Dr. Stearns was the last survivor of thirteen children, and died on March 7, 1882, at which time he was the oldest physician in the town.

Dr. Amos Farnsworth was a son of Major Amos and Elizabeth (Rockwood) Farnsworth, and born at Groton on August 30, 1788. He studied his profession with Dr. Calvin Thomas, of Tyngsborough, and with Dr. John Collins Warren, of Boston, but before his graduation he was commissioned as surgeon's mate in the Fourth Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, on April 14, 1812, just before war was declared by the United States with Great Britain; and two months later, on June 15th, his regiment left South Boston for

Burlington, Vermont, for service on the frontier. He remained with the Fourth Infantry during thirteen months, when he resigned his commission on May 14, 1813. During the following summer he graduated at the Harvard Medical School, and began the practice of his profession in Boston, where he remained until the year 1832, when he removed to his native town. On March 21, 1823, Dr. Farnsworth was married to Mrs. Mary (Bourne) Webber, widow of Captain Seth Webber, of Boston. He died in Roxbury on July 31, 1861, and his wife in Boston, on October 27, 1828, aged thirty-seven years.

Dr. Amos Bigelow Bancroft was a son of Dr. Amos and Sarah (Bass) Bancroft, and born at Groton on April 3, 1813. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1831, and at the Harvard Medical School in 1834. He began the practice of his profession at Groton in connection with his father; and on June 11, 1840, was married to Marietta, daughter of Nathan and India (Emerson) Shepley, of Pepperell. Dr. Bancroft remained in town until the spring of 1853, when he removed to Charlestown, where for more than ten years he was physician to the State Prison. Under the administration of Gen. Grant he was appointed superintendent and surgeon in charge of the Marine Hospital at Chelsea, which position he held from August 1, 1869, to June 30, 1877, when he took up his residence in Boston. While traveling abroad with his family he died in Florence, Italy, on November 8, 1879, much lamented by a wide circle of friends and patients at home,—leaving a widow and two daughters to mourn his loss.

Dr. Abel Hervey Wilder was a native of Winchendon, where he was born on June 16, 1801. He was a son of Levi and Grace (Wilder) Divoll; but by an Act of the Legislature on February 7, 1812, his name was changed from Hervey Divoll to Abel Hervey Wilder, keeping the surname of his mother. He graduated at the Dartmouth Medical School in the class of 1828, and began to practice his profession at Temple, New Hampshire. On February 29, 1828, he was married at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, to Mary, daughter of Ephraim and Elizabeth (Bent) Brown, a native of Lincoln.

Dr. Wilder subsequently removed to Pepperell, and in the year 1836 came to Groton, where he had the management of an institution for the treatment of nervous diseases. He continued to live here until the death of his wife, which took place on February 12, 1843, when he removed to Pittsfield. After leaving Groton he was married for the second time; and after a residence in different parts of the country, he died at Bloomfield, New Jersey, on January 2, 1864.

Dr. James Merrill Cummings was a son of Jacob Abbot and Elizabeth (Merrill) Cummings, and born in Boston on July 27, 1810. He graduated at Bowdoin College in the class of 1830, and at the Bowdoin Medical School in 1834. On November 4, 1835, he was married to Sarah Thurston Phillips, daughter of Joel and Sarah Phillips (Thurston) Hall, of Portland, Maine. In the spring of 1842 Dr. Cummings came to Groton and bought out the establishment of Dr. Wilder, which he conducted for four years; and in the spring of 1846 he removed to Salem, where he re-

mained for four years, when he settled in Portland, where he died on July 20, 1883. His widow died on January 29, 1890, at the advanced age of eighty-five years.

Dr. Rufus Shackford, a son of Captain Samuel and Hannah (Currier) Shackford, was born at Chester, New Hampshire, on December 17, 1816; studied medicine under the tuition of Dr. Cummings, and graduated at the Harvard Medical School in the class of 1845. He practiced for a brief period at Groton in the office of his preceptor, after which he lived in Lowell for a short time, when he removed to Portland, Maine, where he is now in practice.

Dr. Norman Smith was a son of Jesse and Nabby (Kittredge) Smith, and born at Mount Vernon, New Hampshire, on October 13, 1811. He graduated at the Vermont Medical College, Woodstock, in the class of 1843, and began to practice medicine at Groton, where he passed his whole professional life, with the exception of four years spent in Nashua, New Hampshire. In April, 1861, at the outbreak of the Rebellion, he went out as surgeon of the Sixth Massachusetts Militia Regiment, and was with that famous organization on its march through Baltimore and during its first campaign of three months. He was a member of the Union Congregational Church, and prominent in all matters connected with the welfare of the town. His death took place at his farm on Common Street, on May 24, 1888, and the funeral, on May 28th, was conducted under Masonic rites.

Dr. Smith was married, first, on May 3, 1838, to Harriet, daughter of John and Lydia Sleeper, of

Francestown, New Hampshire, who died on September 2, 1839; secondly, on November 6, 1843, to Mariett Sleeper, a sister of his first wife, who died on July 6, 1846; thirdly, on September 22, 1847, to Abigail Maria, daughter of Ephraim and Sarah (King) Brown, of Wilton, New Hampshire, who died on July 17, 1852; fourthly, on September 12, 1853, to Sarah Young, daughter of Solomon and Dorcas (Hopkins) Frost, who died on December 4, 1856, and, fifthly and lastly, on September 11, 1866, to Mrs. Mary Jane (King) Lee, daughter of Daniel and Rebecca (Parmenter) King, of Rutland, Massachusetts.

Dr. Lemuel Fuller was a son of Dr. Lemuel and Mary (Shepherd) Fuller, and born at Marlborough, on April 2, 1811. He graduated at the Vermont Medical College, Woodstock, in the class of 1844, and came to Groton from Harvard in the year 1847. On June 6, 1844, he was married to Catherine Palliseur, daughter of Francis and Maria Foster (Palliseur) Barrett, of Concord. Dr. Fuller left Groton in 1850, and died at Harvard during a temporary visit from home February 11, 1864. During the last ten years of his life he lived at North Weymouth.

Dr. Miles Spaulding was a son of Captain Isaac and Lucy (Emery) Spaulding, and born at Townsend, on April 4, 1819. He graduated at the Berkshire Medical Institution, Pittsfield, in the class of 1842, and he soon afterward established himself at Dunstable, where he remained until the year 1851, when he removed to Groton. Dr. Spaulding was married, first, on January 12, 1848, to Sophia Louisa, daughter of Aaron and Lucinda (Munson) Miller, of New

Haven, Connecticut, who died on September 4, 1852; and, secondly, on August 27, 1863, to Mary Mehetable, only child of Stephen and Mary (Kilborn—French) Stickney. He still lives at Groton, the senior physician of the town.

Dr. Peter Pineo is a son of Peter and Sarah (Steadman) Pineo, and was born at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, on March 6, 1825. He graduated at the Bowdoin Medical School in the class of 1847, and was married in Boston, on May 8, 1850, to Elizabeth, daughter of Kendall and Betsey (Hill) Crosby. In the spring of 1853 he came to Groton, where he remained for two years, after which time he removed to Quechee, a village in the town of Hartford, Vermont. On June 11, 1861, he was commissioned as surgeon of the Ninth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, and soon afterward was promoted to a brigade surgeoncy, which office was abolished on July 2, 1862, by an Act of Congress, when officers of that rank became surgeons of United States Volunteers. On February 9, 1863, he was made medical inspector United States Army, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and he served with distinction until the end of the war. At the present time he is a resident of Boston.

Dr. Kendall Davis was a son of Joseph and Hannah Davis, and born at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, on December 4, 1802. According to the State Register of the years 1847–50, he was then living at Groton, where he practiced for a short time. From this town he went to Athol, and died at Templeton on September 20, 1875.

Dr. Richard Upton Piper is a son of Samuel and

Mary (Folsom) Piper, and was born at Stratham, New Hampshire. He graduated at the Dartmouth Medical School in the class of 1840, and began the practice of his profession at Portland, Maine, where he was married, on November 8, 1841, to Elizabeth Frances Folsom, a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In the year 1864 he came to Groton and remained five years, though without engaging in the active practice of medicine. He afterward lived in Chicago, but is now a resident of Washington. He is an author of some note, having written a work entitled "Operative Surgery Illustrated," and another on "The Trees of America."

Dr. Joseph Franklin Coolidge was a son of Charles and Nancy (Spaulding) Coolidge, and born at Westminster on Sept. 11, 1837. He graduated at the Harvard Medical School in the class of 1862, and in the year 1864 came to Groton, where he remained until his death, which took place on June 1, 1865. Dr. Coolidge was one of a family of ten children, and was never married.

Dr. William Ambrose Webster was the only son of William Gordon and Susan (Ambrose) Webster, and born at Rochester, New Hampshire, June 13, 1830. He graduated at the Medical School of the Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., in the spring of 1862. Soon after graduation, on July 1, 1862, he was commissioned as surgeon of the Ninth New Hampshire Volunteers, which left for the seat of war on August 25, 1862, and he continued in that capacity until January 5, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. In September of that year he came to Gro-

ton, where he remained during three years, when he removed to Westford. He died in Manchester, N. H., on February 8, 1887. Dr. Webster was twice married,—first, in August, 1851, to Mary Anne Kaime, of Pittsfield, N. H., and secondly, on August 9, 1858, to Marion M. Ladd, of Middlesex, Vt. By the first marriage two daughters were born, who both are now living, and by the second marriage one daughter, Susan Marion Webster, was born at Groton on June 25, 1866, but she died before her father.

Dr. David Roscoe Steere is a son of Scott and Mary (Mathewson) Steere, and was born at Lisbon, Connecticut, April 27, 1847. He graduated at the Dartmouth Medical School in the class of 1871, and, after graduation, practiced for a few months at Savoy. In July, 1872, he came to Groton, where he has since remained ; and in the year 1878 he built the house, at the corner of Main and Church Streets, which he now occupies. On June 18, 1873, Dr. Steere was married to Adelia, daughter of Jephtha and Betsey (Boynton) Hartwell.

Dr. Edward Hubbard Winslow was a son of the Reverend Hubbard and Susan Ward (Cutler) Winslow, and born in Boston on Dec. 26, 1835. He was married, on Sept. 1, 1859, to Helen H. Ayer, of Montvale, Me., and in the early spring of 1875 came to Groton, where he remained about two years. Dr. Winslow died in New York on Oct. 16, 1873.

Dr. George Washington Stearns is a son of Paul and Lucy (Kneeland) Stearns, and was born at Reading, Vermont, on Dec. 25, 1814. His mother was a sister of Abner Kneeland, the preacher and author. He

took his medical degree first in March, 1857, at Penn Medical University, Philadelphia, and secondly, in 1858, at the Hahnemann Medical College, in the same city. In the spring of 1878 Dr. Stearns came to Groton from Marblehead, and in November, 1882, removed to Holliston, where he remained a few years, when he went to Holyoke, of which city he is now a resident. He was married, first, on May 8, 1838, at South Yarmouth, to Sylvia Crowell, and secondly, on July 19, 1877, at New Bedford, to Julia Amanda, daughter of Cyrus and Eliza Eastman (Cottrell) Ware.

Dr. William Barnard Warren is a son of Noailles Lafayette and Mary (Barnard) Warren, and was born at Leominster on Nov. 16, 1853. He graduated at the Medical Department of the University of the City of New York in the class of 1881, having previously attended a course of lectures in 1879 at the Dartmouth Medical School. In December, 1882, he came to Groton and established himself in practice, where he now remains. Dr. Warren was married at Groton on Oct. 31, 1883, to Ardelia Temple, daughter of Thomas Haines and Relief (Cummings) Smith, of Boston.

Dr. Marion Zachariah Putnam is a son of John and Sophia (Weaver) Putnam, and was born at Mount Sterling, Illinois, on August 14, 1844. In the year 1870 he graduated at the Medical Department of the Northwestern University, Chicago, and began to practice in his native town. On September 9, 1880, Dr. Putnam was married to Harriet Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Spencer and Harriet Heyward (Law-

ton) Farnsworth, of Groton. About the year 1883 he came to this town from Lowell, where he had resided for a short period. He lives on Pleasant Street, but has retired from the active practice of his profession.

The Fitchburg Railroad was first opened to public travel, through the southerly part of Groton, on December 30, 1844; and the Peterborough and Shirley Railroad, under the management of the Fitchburg company, was opened during the year 1847. The Worcester and Nashua Railroad was operated for regular business, through its entire length, on December 18, 1848, though the section from Groton Junction to Clinton had been previously opened on July 3, 1848, and from Clinton to Worcester on November 22d; and the Stony Brook began its operations on July 1, 1848. Soon after these interconnections were made, a village sprang up in the neighborhood, which became popularly known as the "Junction," though by the Post-Office Department at Washington it was officially called "South Groton." On March 1, 1861, the name of the post-office was changed by the Department from South Groton to Groton Junction. This settlement, growing in numbers, after a while was set off from the parent town, and, by an act of the Legislature on February 14, 1871, incorporated as a distinct township, under the name of Ayer. After this date, therefore, the list of physicians, so far as they relate to the Junction, and their biographical sketches, will cease.

Dr. Ebenezer Willis was a son of John and Nancy (Spriggens) Willis, and born at Newmarket, New Hampshire, on January 26, 1815. He was married at Exeter, on July 23, 1836, to Mary Frances, daughter

of Benjamin and Mary Seavey (Neal) Batchelder. Dr. Willis came to Groton Junction in March, 1849, and was the pioneer physician of the place. He died at Ayer on May 10, 1890.

Dr. John Quincy Adams McCollester is a son of Silas and Achsah (Holman) McCollester, and was born at Marlborough, New Hampshire, on May 3, 1831. He took his degree of M.D. from the Jefferson Medical School in March, 1856. Dr. McCollester was married, first, on May 6, 1856, to Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph and Anna (Longley) Hazen, of Shirley, who died on May 5, 1858; and, secondly, on August 9, 1859, to Georgianna Lydia, daughter of Daniel and Lydia (Fisk) Hunt, of Groton. During the War of the Rebellion he was the surgeon of the Fifty-third Regiment Massachusetts Militia, having been commissioned on December 1, 1862, and mustered out of the service on September 2, 1863. He is now a resident of Waltham.

Dr. Edson Champion Chamberlin, a native of Thetford, Vermont, came to Groton Junction in the summer of 1859 and remained one year. He graduated at the Worcester Medical Institution on June 20, 1854. He was married to Mary A. Pierce, of Southbury, Connecticut, where he died on January 26, 1877, aged fifty-six years.

Dr. Gibson Smith came to Groton Junction from the State of Maine about the year 1866. He was an "eclectic" physician and a spiritualist, and died at Ayer on September 26, 1885, aged seventy years.

Dr. John Eleazer Parsons is a son of John and Rosalinda Davis (Robbins) Parsons, and was born at

Harrison, Maine, on November 20, 1835. He graduated at the Harvard Medical School in the class of 1863, and on March 18th of the same year was commissioned as assistant surgeon of the Twenty-eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, but for disability was discharged on July 30, 1863. Dr. Parsons next served as acting assistant surgeon, United States Navy from October 10, 1863, to December 10, 1866, when he resigned. During the last week of December, 1866, he came to the village of Groton Junction (Ayer), where he is still living.

Dr. Benjamin Hall Hartwell is a son of Benjamin Franklin and Emma (Whitman) Hartwell, and was born at Acton February 27, 1845. He received his early education at Lawrence Academy, Groton, of which institution he is now one of the trustees, and graduated at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, on March 7, 1868. In the early spring of 1869 Dr. Hartwell came to Groton Junction (Ayer), where he still resides, having filled many prominent positions of trust and usefulness. He was married, on September 10, 1879, to Helen Emily, daughter of Major Eusebius Silsby and Mary Jane (Shattuck) Clark.

Dr. James Moody Moore was a son of Dr. Ebenezer Giles and Eliza Sarah (Hidden) Moore, and born at Wells, Maine, on June 20, 1832. He graduated at the Dartmouth Medical School in the class of 1860, and in May of that year came to Groton Junction, where he remained until April, 1861. Dr. Moore then removed to Concord, New Hampshire, his father's home, where he died on February 3, 1870.

A List of Representatives to the General Court, from the colonial period to the present time, with the dates of their election and terms of service; including also the names of certain other officers—1672–1887.

The Assistants of Massachusetts, sometimes called Magistrates, were the forerunners of the Provincial Council and the State Senate. They were few in number, and, in point of dignity and honor, next to the Governor and the Deputy-Governor. Major Simon Willard, the only citizen of the town who ever held the office, became a resident in the year 1672, removing here from Lancaster at that time. He was first chosen to the position in 1654, when living at Concord.

COURT OF ASSISTANTS.

Date of first Election.		*Term of Service.*
May 3, 1654	Major Simon Willard (Died in office on April 24, 1676)	1672–1676

SENATE.

October 26, 1780	Honorable James Prescott	1780–1784, 1786
June 1, 1797	Honorable Timothy Bigelow	1797–1800
May 6, 1805	Honorable Samuel Dana	1805–1812, 1817
(Mr. Dana was president of the body during the years 1807, 1811 and 1812.)		
November 13, 1837	Honorable Stuart James Park	1838, 1839
January 9, 1851	Honorable John Boynton	1851
November 13, 1854	Honorable Abijah Edwin Hildreth	1855
November 5, 1867	Honorable Daniel Needham	1868, 1869
November 8, 1887	Honorable Moses Poor Palmer	1888–1890

(Of these Senators the last two are the sole survivors.)

There is no reference in the Groton records to the election of any representatives to the General Court before the year 1693; and even then the names are not given, and only by the receipts for their pay, and by some allusions to the subject, is it known that any

were chosen previously to that date. According to the Colonial records, Captain James Parker served as a deputy, or representative, during the session beginning November 7, 1683, and it is probable that he was the only one from the town under the first charter.

The following entries comprise every allusion to the subject found in the earliest volume of town records, which is known as the "Indian Roll":

"Fabruary the 6 1693 the inhabitanc being met togather for to Consider of sum waye for to preuent futar unnessesary charges did by uott declare that they would petishone unto the genaraill Court that ther representetiue might be releseed from atending the Seshone any more

"the same daye the town did by uott declare that they would haue dacon Lawranc for to manidge the portistione for them which the Comithy hath draw up" (Page 107.)

"Groton Aprill 12 1693 Know all peple by thes presenc that Nathanaeill Lawranc senor hath Reseiued full satisfactione by the select men and Constables for sarueing the town as a Representiue at the two first sestione

"I saye reseiued by me NATHANNIL LAURANCE"

"Groton April 12 1693 Know all peple by thes presenc that John Page senor doth fully and [*sic*] Clearely acquite the town select men and constables for sarfing the town as a representetiue at the first [session] held at boston in ye year 1692

"as witness my hand JOH PAGE seneyer"

"Payed to Nathanail Lawranc se[nior] aight pounds in mony

"Payed to John Page se[nior] two pounds sixteen shillins and nine penc in mony" (Page 109.)

"maye 15 1693 the Town being met together ther unto orderlie warned then the town did by uote declare that they would not send nor Choose any parson nor parsons for to Represent them at the great and genaraill Corte or asembley

"John page senor Jeams Kemp John Stone and William Longley se[nior] desent from this uote John farnworth and Steuen holden

"The Town Resons is they do not iudg themself layable nether acordind to Law nor Charter

"as atest WILLIAM LONGLEY *Town Clarck*"

(Page 109.)

"October 30 1693 at town meeting Legally warned Capt Jeams. Parker was chousen to Represent the town at ye great and genaraeell assembly held at boston the eaight day of nouember insuing the date here of" (Page 110.)

It does not appear from the records of the General Court that Captain Parker was present at any meeting of this session.

"Jenuary 1 169¾ the town this daye did ingage to sequer the seleck men from any harm or dameidg that they shall meett with all in Respect of Decon nathanaell Lawranc in that he doth demand thirty 6 shillins in money for to be his dew for sarfing the said town as a representiue and the town doo Refuse to paye the said money the seleck men being estemed as the rest of the inhabitanc in the mater also the town did by the maier uote chouse Liftenant Jonah Prescot & Jeams parker Ju for to answer in the case if the said Lawranc should truble ye seleck men or town and they did exsept of the choiss and they are to haue their paye for their pains when the said town is able to paye them

"as wittness WILLIAM LONGLEY *town clark*"

"John page se[nior] desents from the aboue mentioned propersistione" (Pages 111, 112.)

"at a town meting legelly warned May 9th 1699: Capt: Prescot was chosen for to atende the genrell Cort: for to sarue as a represintiue

"JAMES BLANCHARD *Clark*"

(Page 118.)

"May 17 1703 at a town metting legelly warned the town did by uot declare that thay would pay deacon larrance the mony that the deacon demande for saruing the: town as ane represintiue In the year 1693

"the town did uote and declare that thay would borrow the mony of thomas Williams for four month and pay for the use of it one shilling

"JAMES BLANCHARD *Clark*"

(Page 124.)

"Groton May ye 8 1705 then capt prascot was chosen to sarue as a representetife for the yer Insuing

"THOMAS TARBELL *Clarck*"

(Page 126.)

"Groton May the aight 1706 At a town meting legally worned to chuse a repreasantiue the fre hooldars and other inhabitants qualafied acording to law did by the maior uote couse [choose] Simin Stone for this year 1706 a represantetiue

"JOSEPH LAKIN *town clark*"

(Page 129.)

The paging, as given after these several extracts, refers to the printed edition of "The Early Records of Groton, Massachusetts, 1662–1707," from which they are taken. Since the year 1707, and even before that date, in the town records, there are occasional omissions of the names of representatives, and these gaps I have filled from the Colonial and Provincial records at the State-House. In such cases the names are printed within brackets, and the dates given with them refer to the beginning of each session; and in all other instances in the list, where dates of the sessions have been obtained or inferences drawn from these records, brackets are used.

In early times the representative to the General Court was paid by the town that sent him; and this fact furnishes the reason why the town of Groton, on May 15, 1693, voted not to send one. It was then poor, and staggering under a heavy load in the shape of debts and current expenses. Notwithstanding the receipt of Deacon Lawrence given on April 12, 1693, the town was threatened by him with a suit for thirty-six shillings, for his services as a representative, perhaps during a short period after the petition of February 6, 1693, when it was voted that he should be released from attendance. It is not now known whether a suit was ever begun, but, ten years later, as appears by the vote of May 17, 1703, the town agreed to settle the matter by paying the demand, though it was obliged to borrow the money for that purpose,—an indication of its extreme poverty. During some of these ten years Deacon Lawrence was a resident of that quarter of Cambridge which is now

Lexington; and his absence from Groton may have been, in part, the cause of the long delay in settling the dispute. Neither Deacon Lawrence nor Mr. Page was chosen to the Assembly that convened on May 31, 1693.

John Paris was a member of the Council for Safety of the People, which met on May 9, 1689, just after Governor Andros was deposed. It is probable that the town was unrepresented during the following years: 1693 (first session), 1694–1698, 1700–1704, and 1707, as the Provincial records of those dates do not mention any member from Groton.

In the following list of representatives I have given the church, civil and military titles found in the records, inasmuch as they indicate, approximately, the period when they were acquired. For nearly a century and a half the term of service of each member was during the year of his election. The name of John Sheple, as spelled in the town records, is written John Shepley in the Provincial records, but the two names refer to the same man, and the Nathaniel Sawtell of the town records is identical with the Nathaniel Sartle of the Provincial records.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Date of Election.

[November 7, 1683, Captain James Parker.]
[May 9, 1689, John Paris.]

Under the Charter of William and Mary.

[June 8, 1692, Nathaniel Lawrence.]
[June 8, 1692, John Page.]
[May 31, 1693 (first session), probably none chosen.]
October 30, 1693 (second session), Captain James Parker.
[May 30, 1694, probably none chosen.]

[May 29, 1695, probably none chosen.]
[May 27, 1696, probably none chosen.]
[May 26, 1697, probably none chosen.]
[May 25, 1698, probably none chosen.]
May 9, 1699, Jonas Prescott.
[May 29, 1700, probably none chosen.]
[May 28, 1701, probably none chosen.]
[May 27, 1702, probably none chosen.]
[May 26, 1703, probably none chosen.]
[May 31, 1704, probably none chosen.]
May 8, 1705, Jonas Prescott.
May 8, 1706, Simon Stone.
[May 28, 1707, probably none chosen.]
[May 26, 1708, John Farnsworth.]
May 25, 1709, Ensign John Farnsworth.
May 22, 1710, Ensign John Farnsworth.
[May 30, 1711, John Farnsworth.]
May 7, 1712, Ensign John Farnsworth.
May 11, 1713, Ensign John Farnsworth.
[May 26, 1714, John Farnsworth.]
[May 25, 1715, Thomas Tarbell.]
[May 30, 1716, John Shepley.]
May 21, 1717, John Sheple.
[May 28, 1718, John Shepley.]
[May 27, 1719, John Shepley.]
May 6, 1720, Captain Jonas Prescott, Jr.
May 22, 1721, Captain John Sheple.
August 8, 1721, Captain John Sheple.
[May 30, 1722, Captain John Sheple.]
May 1, 1723, Lieutenant Benjamin Prescott.
May 18, 1724, Lieutenant Benjamin Prescott.
May 14, 1725, Captain John Sheple.
May 19, 1726, Captain John Sheple.
May 17, 1727, Benjamin Prescott.
May 10, 1728, Captain John Sheple.
May 14, 1729, John Longley.
May 18, 1730, Deacon John Longley.
May 17, 1731, Deacon John Longley.
[May 31, 1732, Nathaniel Sartle.]
May 21, 1733, Nathaniel Sawtell, Esq.
May 8, 1734, Benjamin Prescott, Esq.
May 19, 1735, Benjamin Prescott, Esq.

May 18, 1736, Benjamin Prescott, Esq.
May 17, 1737, Colonel Benjamin Prescott.
May 15, 1738, Benjamin Prescott, Esq. (died in office on August 3, 1738).
December 25, 1738, Justice Nathaniel Sawtell, in the place of Benjamin Prescott, Esq., deceased.
May 23, 1739, Justice Nathaniel Sawtell.
[May 28, 1740, John Longley.]
May 25, 1741, Justice Nathaniel Sawtell.
May 12, 1742, Nathaniel Sawtell.
[May 25, 1743, William Lawrence.]
May 14, 1744, Nathaniel Sawtell.
May 17, 1745, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 18, 1746, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 18, 1747, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 17, 1748, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 22, 1749, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 28, 1750 (the town voted not to send).
May 27, 1751, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 14, 1752, William Lawrence, Esq.

The district of Shirley was set off from Groton on January 5, 1753, and the district of Pepperell, three months later, on April 12th, and after these dates, until the period of the Revolution, the two districts were represented in the General Court by the parent town.

Date of Election.
May 14, 1753, William Lawrence, Esq.
[May 29, 1754, William Lawrence.]
May 13, 1755, Colonel William Lawrence.
May 17, 1756, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 13, 1757, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 17, 1758, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 25, 1759, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 26, 1760, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 15, 1761, William Lawrence, Esq.
May 17, 1762, Captain Abel Lawrence.
May 16, 1763, Captain Abel Lawrence.
May 21, 1764, Captain Abel Lawrence.
May 14, 1765, Captain Abel Lawrence.

May 12, 1766, Colonel James Prescott.
May 18, 1767, Colonel James Prescott.
May 10, 1768, Colonel James Prescott.
May 23, 1769, Colonel James Prescott.
May 21, 1770, Colonel James Prescott.
May 20, 1771, Colonel James Prescott.
May 18, 1772, Colonel James Prescott.
May 17, 1773, Colonel James Prescott.
May 9, 1774, Colonel James Prescott.
May 22, 1775, Honorable James Prescott.

After this date Pepperell and Shirley were each represented in the General Court separately, and not by the parent town. Owing to the political disturbances, a new Assembly was chosen by the Province in the summer of 1775. The precept issued to the town of Groton, with the answer, is found among the Archives (CXXXVIII. 214) at the State House, as follows:

"COLONY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

"These are to will, and require you forthwith to cause the Freeholders, & other Inhabitants of your town that have an Estate of Freehold in land within this Colony or Territory of forty Shillings ℔r. annum at the least, or other Estate to the value of forty Pounds sterling, to assemble at such time, & Place as you shall appoint; then & there to elect, and depute one or more Persons (being freeholders, and resident in the same town) according to a number set, & limited by an Act of the General Court or Assembly, which was conven'd at Watertown on the nineteenth day of July current for the Service of this Colony, and is still in being; and to cause the Person or Persons so elect, and deputed by the major part of the electors present at such election to be timely notified, & summoned by one of the constables of your town forthwith to attend the Service of this Province in the said general Court, or Assembly, & during the Session or Sessions of the same.—— Hereof fail not, and make a Return of this Precept with the name or names of the Person, or Persons so elected, & deputed, with their being summoned into the General Assembly, as soon as may be after such election, & summons shall be made.

"Dated at Watertown this 31st—day of July A.D. 1775.

"By order of the House of Representatives

"JAS: WARREN *Speaker*

" To the Selectmen of the town of
Groton in the County
of Middlesex Greeting.

"Pursuant to the Precept within written the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the town of Groton qualify'd as is therein directed, upon due Warning given, assembled and met together on the Twenty first day of August and then did elect, & depute Capt. Josiah Sartell—to serve for, and represent them in the Session, or Sessions of the great, and general Court or Assembly which was conven'd at Watertown on the nineteenth day of July current for the Service of this Colony the said Person being chosen by a major part of the electors present.

" Dated in Groton aforesaid the 21st day of August—A.D. 1775.

" Oliver Prescott, Isaac Farnsworth, Amos Lawrance } *Selectmen of Groton*

" The Person chosen as abovesaid
notified thereof & summon'd
to attend accordingly
by me Constable of Groton
Oliver Fletcher

[Indorsed] " Return from Groton Capt Josiah Sartell

" Mr Fowle Please to make out a Precept for the town of Hancock in the County of Berkshire—according to this Form—

[Addressed] "To The Selectmen of the Town of Groton."

Date of Election.

August 21, 1775, Captain Josiah Sartell.
May 20, 1776, Colonel Josiah Sartell.
May 26, 1777, Honorable James Prescott. Deacon Isaac Farnsworth, declined, and Colonel Josiah Sartell chosen in his place.
May 18, 1778, Honorable James Prescott.
May 17, 1779, Honorable James Prescott.
May 15, 1780, Honorable James Prescott.

The first General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts met on Wednesday, October 25, 1780, and the Honorable James Prescott was the representative from this town. He was chosen to the House on September 4th, and a short time later, in order to fill a vacancy in the Senate, he was elected to that

body by a convention of both branches on Thursday, October 26, 1780; and subsequently by another similar convention on Friday, October 27th, to the Executive Council. At that time the Councilors and Senators were chosen on the same general ticket, without any special designation of either office, and then the Legislature selected from the upper body the members of the Council.

The *Continental Journal*, etc., (Boston), November 2, 1780, gives a list of the members of the General Court, where Mr. Prescott appears not only as a representative, but also as a Senator and a Councilor; and in another column of the same newspaper it is announced, as a resolution of the Legislature, that owing to Mr. Prescott's acceptance of the Senatorship, his office as sheriff of Middlesex County was rendered vacant, and owing, furthermore, to the lack of time in filling it, agreeably to the new Constitution, the session of the Superior Court of Judicature, Court of Assize and General Gaol Delivery would stand adjourned for one fortnight. He was also chosen, during the years 1781, '82, '83, '84 and '86, first to the Senate, and shortly afterwards to the Council, where he appears to have served through the respective terms. He had previously represented the town in the three Provincial Congresses of 1774 and 1775, and his experience in legislative bodies was large.

Two of the representatives in the following list, namely, the Hon. Timothy Bigelow and the Hon. Luther Lawrence, have been Speakers of the House. Mr. Bigelow was first chosen to that position on May 29, 1805, and for eleven years, at intervals, he con-

tinued to fill the office—the longest term of service in that capacity ever held by one person—though during a part of this period he was representing the town of Medford. He was Speaker at the time of the separation of Maine from Massachusetts. Mr. Lawrence, a brother-in-law of Mr. Bigelow, was elected to the same office on May 29, 1822, and held it during one year. It is not a little singular that they both were occupants, at different times, of the same dwelling, formerly situated on Main Street, but now moved away; and both had their law-offices in a building near by, where, also, Mr. Dana, the president of the Senate, had had his law-office. This coincidence is by no means weakened by the fact that Governor Boutwell, the present owner of the place, was once the Democratic candidate for the Speakership, when the Legislature met on January 6, 1847, and he also was a resident of the town at that time. It may be worthy of note that another Speaker, the Hon. Timothy Fuller, the father of Margaret, who is known as the Countess d'Ossoli, was a citizen of Groton for some years before his death, which took place on October 1, 1835.

Under the Constitution originally the political year began on the last Wednesday of May, but the Senators and Representatives were chosen at different times. The members of the House were elected, annually, in the month of May, ten days at least before the last Wednesday of that month, and their term of service was during the year of their election.

UNDER THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

Date of Election.

September 4, 1780, Hon. James Prescott.
May 14, 1781, Deacon Isaac Farnsworth.
May 13, 1782, Deacon Isaac Farnsworth, declined, and Israel Hobart chosen in his place.
May 12, 1783, Israel Hobart.
May 10, 1784, Dr. Benjamin Morse.
May 9, 1785, Ebenezer Champney.
May 8, 1786, (the town voted by one majority not to send).

On March 7, 1787, the General Court passed an order fining the town of Groton twenty-four pounds and ten shillings for its neglect to send a representative during the preceding year. Forty other towns were fined various sums at the same time for a similar neglect; and among them were Pepperell, Dunstable, Westford, Littleton, Harvard and Lunenburg.

Date of Election.

May 7, 1787, Dr. Benjamin Morse.
May 12, 1788, Dr. Benjamin Morse.
May 11, 1789, Dr. Benjamin Morse.
May 4, 1790, (the town voted not to send).
May 9, 1791, Major Aaron Brown.
May 7, 1792, Major Aaron Brown.
May 6, 1793, Major Aaron Brown, Mr. Timothy Bigelow.
May 12, 1794, Mr. Timothy Bigelow.
May 6, 1795, Mr. Timothy Bigelow.
May 2, 1796, Mr. Timothy Bigelow.
May 1, 1797, Mr. Timothy Bigelow.
May 14, 1798, Hon. Timothy Bigelow.
May 6, 1799, Hon. Timothy Bigelow.
May 5, 1800, Hon. Timothy Bigelow.
May 4, 1801, Hon. Timothy Bigelow.
May 3, 1802, Hon. Timothy Bigelow.
May 2, 1803, Samuel Dana.
May 7, 1804, Hon. Timothy Bigelow,
May 6, 1805, Hon. Timothy Bigelow, *Speaker*.
May 5, 1806, Hon. Timothy Bigelow, *Speaker*.
May 4, 1807, Joseph Moors.

May 2, 1808, Joseph Moors.
May 1, 1809, Joseph Moors, Oliver Prescott.
May 7, 1810, Oliver Prescott, James Brazer.
May 6, 1811, Major Joseph Moors, Major Thomas Gardner.
May 4, 1812, Joseph Moors, Luther Lawrence.
May 3, 1813, Joseph Moors, Luther Lawrence.
May 2, 1814, Joseph Moors, Luther Lawrence.
May 1, 1815, Luther Lawrence.
May 6, 1816, Luther Lawrence.
May 5, 1817, Luther Lawrence.
May 4, 1818, Luther Lawrence.
May 3, 1819, Luther Lawrence.
May 1, 1820, Luther Lawrence.
May 7, 1821, Luther Lawrence.
May 6, 1822, Luther Lawrence, *Speaker*.
May 12, 1823, (the town voted not to send).
May 23, 1824, Captain Noah Shattuck.
May 2, 1825, Hon. Samuel Dana.
May 1, 1826, Hon. Samuel Dana.
May 7, 1827, Hon. Samuel Dana.
May 5, 1828, (the town voted not to send).
May 4, 1829, Caleb Butler, declined, and William Livermore chosen in his place.
May 3, 1830, Luther Lawrence, William Livermore.
May 11, 1831, Captain John Boynton.
(The town voted not to choose a second representative.)

By the tenth Article of Amendment to the Constitution of Massachusetts, adopted by the General Court during two successive sessions, and ratified by the people on May 11, 1831, the beginning of the political year was changed from the last Wednesday in May to the first Wednesday in January, and the day of election changed to the second Monday in November. In this list hereafter the term of service is during the year following the date of election.

Date of Election.
November 12, 1832, Captain John Boynton, Captain John Rockwood.
November 11, 1833, Captain John Boynton, Captain John Rockwood.

November 10, 1834, Captain John Boynton, Timothy Blood.
November 9, 1835, Captain John Boynton, Timothy Blood.
November 14, 1836, John Gray Park, Dr. Joshua Green.
November 13, 1837, Dr. Joshua Green.
(The town voted not to choose a second representative.)
November 12, 1838, John Gray Park, Captain Daniel Shattuck.
November 11, 1839, (the town voted not to send.)
November 9, 1840, John Boynton.
November 8, 1841, George Sewall Boutwell.
November 14, 1842, George Sewall Boutwell.
November 13, 1843, George Sewall Boutwell.
November 11, 1844, William Livermore, Jr.
November 10, 1845, William Livermore, Jr.
November 10, 1846, George Sewall Boutwell.

Mr. Boutwell was chosen on the third trial by five majority. On the preceding day there had been a tie vote twice between him and Edward Coburn, the Whig candidate.

Date of Election.
November 8, 1847, George Sewall Boutwell.
November 13, 1848, George Sewall Boutwell.
November 12, 1849, George Sewall Boutwell.
November 11, 1850, Phinehas Gilman Prescott.
November 10, 1851, Phinehas Gilman Prescott.
November 8, 1852, William Shattuck.
November 14, 1853, William Shattuck.
November 13, 1854, John Warren Parker.
November 12, 1855, John Warren Parker.

By the fifteenth Article of Amendment to the State Constitution, adopted by the General Court during two successive sessions, and ratified by the people on May 23, 1855, the day of election was changed to the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November.

Date of Election.
November 4, 1856, Warren Fay Stone.

Under Chapter CCCVIII., Acts of 1857, a new apportionment of Representatives was made through-

out the State, and the town of Groton became, thereby, in connection with the towns of Pepperell, Shirley, Westford and Dunstable, the Twenty-sixth Middlesex District, with two Representatives.

Date of Election.
November 3, 1857, Eliel Shumway.
November 3, 1857, Robert Parker Woods.
November 7, 1860, George Henry Brown.
November 4, 1863, George Samuel Gates.
November 8, 1865, Benjamin Franklin Taft.

Mr. Shumway's election was contested before the General Court by Allen Cummings, of Dunstable, and a hearing was given by the Committee on Elections; but the matter was decided in favor of Mr. Shumway. For a full statement of the case, see "Reports of Controverted Elections in the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1853 to 1885 inclusive" (page 41), by Edward P. Loring and Charles Theodore Russell, Jr. (Boston, 1886).

By another apportionment, made under Chapter CIII., Acts of 1866, Groton and Pepperell became the Thirty-first Middlesex District, and were entitled to one Representative. The town of Ayer, on its incorporation, February 14, 1871, except that part which had previously belonged to Shirley, was added to the district.

Date of Election.
November 7, 1866, Danial Needham.
November 4, 1868, William Livermore.
November 2, 1869, Edmund Dana Bancroft.
November 5, 1873, George Samuel Gates.

By still another apportionment, under Chapter XV., Acts of 1876, Groton became, in connection

with Westford, Dunstable and Pepperell, the Thirty-fourth Middlesex District, and entitled to one Representative.

Date of Election.
November 8, 1876, Asa Stillman Lawrence.
November 3, 1880, Asa Stillman Lawrence.
November 7, 1883, Moses Poor Palmer.
November 12, 1886, George Sumner Graves.

Colonel William Lawrence was a member of the General Court during seventeen years,—the longest term of service of any Representative from the town; and after him came the Hon. James Prescott, who served fifteen years.

Mr. Boutwell is now the senior surviving member, and, with the exception of Phineas Gilman Prescott, William Shattuck, Warren Fay Stone, George Henry Brown and George Sumner Graves, all his successors are still alive.

REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

FIRST PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES.

Date of Election.		*Term of Service.*
May 9, 1774	Honorable James Prescott	1774

SECOND PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES.

December 26, 1774 . . .	Honorable James Prescott	1775

THIRD PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES.

May 22, 1775	Honorable James Prescott	1775

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF WAR.

October 30, 1776	Oliver Prescott, declined.	
November 16, 1776 . . .	James Prescott	1776–1779

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

May 29, 1777	Oliver Prescott	1777–1779

According to the records of the General Court, when the Board of War was first chosen on October

30, 1776, "Brig^r. Prescot" was elected a member. This referred to Dr. Oliver Prescott, at that time a brigadier-general, but it does not appear that he ever took his seat with the board. On November 13th the records state that two of the members, whose names are given, had declined, and their places were at once filled; and on November 16th five more resignations were announced,—though no names are mentioned,—and the vacancies then filled. Dr. Prescott was undoubtedly one of the five who declined at this time. Among those chosen at the second election was "Colonel Prescot," who was James, a brother of Oliver. It is a little singular that their Christian names are not given in the records, as both were well-known men. The "Journal of the House," October 30, 1776, prints the name of "*James Prescott*, Esq;" as one of the nine original members chosen at that time, but this is an error. Colonet Prescott attended his first meeting with the Board of War on December 18,— according to the manuscript minutes of the Board.

VARIOUS OFFICERS.

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Date of Election.		*Term of Service.*
January 11, 1851 . . .	Honorable George Sewall Boutwell	1851, 1852

SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES TREASURY.
(Under President Grant.)

March 11, 1869	Honorable George Sewall Boutwell .	1869–1873

SENATOR IN CONGRESS.

March 12, 1873	Honorable George Sewall Boutwell .	1873–1877

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

November 5, 1810 . . .	Honorable William Merchant Richardson	1811–1814
November 7, 1814 . . .	Honorable Samuel Dana	1814, 1815
November 4, 1862 . . .	Honorable George Sewell Boutwell	1863–1869

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

October 27, 1780 Honorable James Prescott . . 1780–1784, 1786
May 28, 1802 Honorable Timothy Bigelow 1802

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR.

November 6, 1820 . . . Honorable Samuel Dana 1820
(The Electoral College of Massachusetts cast its vote on December 7, 1820, unanimously in favor of James Monroe for President.)

DELEGATES TO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS.

Convention for forming the Constitution of Massachusetts, September 1, 1779.

Date of Election. *Term of Service.*

August 16, 1779 Honorable James Sullivan 1779, 1780
(Mr. Sullivan was afterward Governor of the Commonwealth, and died on December 10, 1808, while holding the office.)

Convention for adopting the Constitution of the United States, January 9, 1788.

December 3, 1787 Dr. Benjamin Morse, Joseph Sheple, Esq. 1788
(Both these delegates opposed the adoption.)

Convention for altering the Constitution of Massachusetts, November 15, 1820.

August 21, 1820 { Honorable Samuel Dana, / Luther Lawrence, Esq. } . . . 1820, 1821

Convention for altering the Constitution of Massachusetts, May 4, 1853.

March 7, 1853 John Gray Park, Esq. 1853
(Mr. Boutwell, of Groton, represented the town of Berlin, Worcester County, in this Convention.)

JUDGES AND OTHER COURT OFFICERS.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

Date of Appointment. *Term of Service.*

June 3, 1803 . . . Honorable James Prescott, Jr. 1803
(By an Act passed on June 21, 1811, the Court of Common Pleas became the Circuit Court of Common Pleas.)

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

October 14, 1811 . . Honorable Samuel Dana 1811–1820

JUSTICE OF COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

December 21, 1782 . . Honorable James Prescott 1782–1800

JUDGES OF PROBATE.

July 1, 1779 Honorable Oliver Prescott 1779–1804
(Reappointed on March 27, 1781.)
February 1, 1805 . . . Honorable James Prescott, Jr. 1805–1821

SHERIFF.

September 6, 1775 . . Honorable James Prescott 1775–1780

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

May 28, 1783 William Swan, Esq. 1783–1789

"The Massachusetts Register and United States Calendar for the year of our Lord 1806" (page 75) gives Ephraim Wood, of Groton, as one of the justices of the Court of Common Pleas in Middlesex County, but the place of residence is without doubt a mistake. I cannot find that Judge Wood ever lived at Groton.

A LIST OF THE RESIDENTS

Of Groton who held Commissions from the Governor and Council, during the Provincial Period.

Date of Appointment.

August 27, 1713, Captain Jonas Prescott, Justice of the Peace.
December 9, 1715, Captain Jonas Prescott, Justice of the Peace.
December 26, 1727, Benjamin Prescott, Justice of the Peace.
October 10, 1729, Benjamin Prescott, Justice of the Peace.
March 19, 1729–30, Captain Nathaniel Sartle, Justice of the Peace.
July 9, 1731, Benjamin Prescott, Justice of the Peace.
July 9, 1731, Nathaniel Sartle, Justice of the Peace.
June 27, 1735, Benjamin Prescott, in place of Paul Dudley, a Special Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature.
January 2, 1735–36, Benjamin Prescott, Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum.
November 10, 1737, Benjamin Prescott, in place of Paul Dudley, a Special Justice in divers cases.
December 29, 1739, William Lawrence, Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum.
August 12, 1749, William Lawrence, Special Justice of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas.

June 21, 1751, William Lawrence, Special Justice of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas.
January 2, 1753, James Prescott, Justice of the Peace.
June 26, 1755, William Lawrence, Justice of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, in place of Francis Fulham, resigned.
November 20, 1761, William Lawrence, Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum.
November 20, 1761, James Prescott, Justice of the Peace.
June 8, 1764, Abel Lawrence, Justice of the Peace.

CORONERS.—The first three names mentioned below are taken from the Council records; but the others are found in the "Record of Civil Commissions," in the office of the Secretary of State. Under the Constitution coroners were appointed for life, unless sooner removed; but by an act passed on April 29, 1862, their tenure of office was limited to seven years, subject to reappointment. By another act passed on May 9, 1877, the office was abolished, and, so far as related to inquests, the medical examiner was substituted in place of the coroner.

Date of Appointment.
March 8, 1759, Israel Hubbard [Hobart].
November 20, 1761, Israel Hobart.
(These two persons were the same.)
July 12, 1769, Isaac Farnsworth.
August 28, 1775, Isaac Farnsworth.
September 24, 1778, Ephraim Russell.
March 27, 1781, Ephraim Russell.
March 2, 1790, Samuel Lawrence.
March 2, 1790, Peter Edes.
January 7, 1801, Samson Woods.
February 3, 1803, William Farwell Brazer.
July 4, 1803, James Lewis, Jr.
July 5, 1809, William Lawrence.
February 20, 1810, Abel Farnsworth.
August 20, 1811, Jacob Lakin Parker.
March 2, 1813, Amos Lawrence.
May 26, 1817, Benjamin Moors.

February 9, 1820, William Austin Bancroft.
(Mr. Bancroft was a resident of Townsend at the time of his appointment.)
January 16, 1822, David Childs.
June 29, 1852, Jacob Pollard.
May 15, 1856, John Mason Porter.
April 2, 1858, Eusebius Silsby Clarke.
April 10, 1860, Asa Stillman Lawrence.
January 24, 1866, John Quincy Adams McCollester.
April 16, 1867, Asa Stillman Lawrence.
April 30, 1869, Benjamin Lincoln Howe.
April 30, 1874, Asa Stillman Lawrence.

NATIVES OF GROTON

And Residents of the Town, who have Afterward Filled Important Positions Elsewhere.

Honorable John Prescott Bigelow, born at Groton on August 25, 1797, Harvard College, 1815; Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1836–43; Member of the Executive Council, 1845–49; Mayor of Boston, 1849–51. Died in Boston on July 4, 1874.

Honorable Henry Adams Bullard, born at Groton on September 9, 1788, Harvard College, 1807; Justice of the Sixth District Court of Louisiana, 1822–31; Representative in Congress from Alexandria and New Orleans, Louisiana (Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Thirty-first Congresses), 1831–34, '50, '51; Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, 1834–46, with the exception of a few months in 1839, when he acted as Secretary of State. Died in New Orleans on April 17, 1851.

Mr. Bullard's father was the settled minister at Pepperell, but all the printed accounts of his life say

that he was born at Groton, which is my authority for the statement.

Honorable Willard Hall, born at Westford on December 24, 1780, Harvard College, 1799; studied law with the Honorable Samuel Dana at Groton; Secretary of the State of Delaware, 1811–14, '21; Representative in Congress from Wilmington, Delaware (Fifteenth and Sixteenth Congresses), 1817–21; Judge of the United States District Court in Delaware, 1823–71. Died in Wilmington on May 10, 1875.

Honorable John Harris, born at Harvard on October 13, 1769, Harvard College, 1791; studied law with the Honorable Timothy Bigelow at Groton; Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature of New Hampshire, 1823–33. Died at Hopkinton, New Hampshire, on April 23, 1845.

Honorable Amos Kendall, born at Dunstable on August 16, 1789, Dartmouth College, 1811; studied law with the Honorable William Merchant Richardson at Groton; Postmaster-General under Presidents Jackson and Van Buren, 1835–40. Died in Washington, D. C., on June 12, 1869.

Honorable Abbott Lawrence, born at Groton on December 16, 1792; Representative in Congress from Boston (Twenty-fourth and Twenty-sixth Congresses), 1835–37, '39, '40; Presidential Elector, 1844; Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Great Britain, 1849–52. Died in Boston on August 18, 1855.

Honorable John Locke, born at Hopkinton, Massachusetts, on February 14, 1764, Harvard College, 1792; studied law with the Honorable Timothy

Bigelow at Groton; Representative in Congress from Ashby, Massachusetts (Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Congresses), 1823–29; Member of the Executive Council, 1831. Died in Boston on March 29, 1855.

Honorable Thomas Rice, born at Pownalborough (now Wiscasset), Maine, on March 30, 1768, Harvard College, 1791; studied law with the Honorable Timothy Bigelow at Groton; Representative in Congress from Augusta, District of Maine, Massachusetts (Fourteenth and Fifteenth Congresses), 1815–19. Died at Winslow, Maine, on August 24, 1854.

Honorable William Merchant Richardson, born at Pelham, New Hampshire, on January 4, 1774, Harvard College, 1797; Preceptor of Groton Academy, 1799–1802; studied law with the Honorable Samuel Dana at Groton; Postmaster, 1804–12; Representative in Congress from Groton (Twelfth and Thirteenth Congresses), 1811–14; removed to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and afterward became Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature of that State, 1816–38. Died at Chester, New Hampshire, on March 23, 1838.

Honorable Ether Shepley, born at Groton on November 2, 1789, Dartmouth College, 1811; Senator in Congress from Maine, 1833–36; Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, 1836–48; Chief Justice of the same Court, 1848–55. Died in Portland on January 15, 1877.

Honorable Samuel Emerson Smith, born at Hollis, New Hampshire, on March 12, 1788, Harvard College, 1808; studied law with the Honorable Samuel

Dana at Groton; Justice of the Court of Common Pleas of Maine, 1822–1830; Governor of Maine, 1831–1833; Justice of the Court of Common Pleas again, 1835–1837. Died at Wiscasset, Maine, on March 3, 1860.

Honorable Asahel Stearns, born at Lunenburg, June 17, 1774, Harvard College, 1797; Preceptor of Groton Academy during a short period immediately after his graduation; studied law with the Honorable Timothy Bigelow at Groton; representative in Congress from Chelmsford, Massachusetts (Fourteenth Congress), 1815–1817; University Professor of Law at the Harvard Law School, 1817–1829. Died in Cambridge on February 5, 1839.

Honorable James Sullivan, born at Berwick, Maine, on April 22, 1744; Member of the three Provincial Congresses, from Biddeford, 1774, 1775; resident of Groton, 1778–1782; delegate to the Continental Congress, 1782; Member of the Executive Council, 1787; Judge of Probate, Suffolk County, 1788–1790; Attorney-General, 1790-1807; First President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1791–1806; Governor of the Commonwealth, 1807, 1808. Died in Boston on December 10, 1808, while in office.

Honorable John Varnum, born at Dracut on June 25, 1778, Harvard College, 1798; studied law with the Honorable Timothy Bigelow at Groton; Representative in Congress from Haverhill, Massachusetts (Nineteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first Congresses), 1825–1831. Died at Niles, Michigan, on July 23, 1836.

In the spring of 1765 the odious Stamp Act was

passed, which did much to hasten public opinion toward the American Revolution. This town sympathized warmly with the feeling, and prepared to do her part in the struggle. A large number of her inhabitants had received their schooling in the French War, as their fathers before them had received theirs during the Indian troubles. Such persons did not now enter upon camp life as raw troops, but as experienced and disciplined soldiers. The town had men willing to serve and able to command. The leaders of the Revolution displayed great foresight in the careful attention paid to the details of their work; and the final success of the struggle was due as much to their sagacity as to the deep feeling of the people. On the side of the patriots the skirmishes of April 19, 1775, were fought by companies made up of minute-men, organized on a recommendation of the First Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, in a resolve passed at Cambridge on October 26, 1774. It was at that time recommended to the field officers of the various militia regiments that they should enlist at least one-quarter of their respective commands, and form them into companies to be held in readiness, at the shortest notice by the Committee of Safety, to march to the place of rendezvous. Such soldiers soon became known as minute-men, and proved to be of very great help and strength to the popular cause. Two companies were enlisted at Groton; and at the desire of the officers, the Rev. Samuel Webster, of Temple, New Hampshire, on February 21, 1775, preached a sermon before them, which was afterward printed. It was there stated that a large majority of

the town had engaged to hold themselves in readiness, agreeably to the plan of the Provincial Congress, to act in the service of their country. The sermon is singularly meagre in those particulars which would interest us at the present time, and is made up largely of theological opinions, perhaps as valuable now as then, but not so highly prized.

On the memorable 19th of April two companies of minute-men, under the respective commands of Captain Henry Farwell and Captain Asa Lawrence, marched from Groton to Concord and Cambridge; and on the same day for the same destination two other companies of militia, under the respective commands of Captain Josiah Sartell and Captain John Sawtell. According to the company rolls at the State-House, there were in Farwell's company, at the time of marching, three commissioned officers and fifty-two men, and in Lawrence's three officers and forty-three men; and in the two militia companies (Sartell's) three officers and forty-five men, and (Sawtell's) one officer and twenty-five men, respectively, though in Sawtell's company some of the men were from Pepperell.

In the battle of Bunker Hill, on June 17, 1775, one commissioned officer and eleven soldiers, residents of Groton, were either killed in the fight or mortally wounded. This roll of honor comprises the names of Lieutenant Amaziah Fassett, who fell wounded and died a prisoner on July 5th; Sergeant Benjamin Prescott, a son of the Hon. James Prescott, and a nephew of Colonel William Prescott, who commanded the American forces, and privates Abraham Blood,

Chambers Corey, James Dodge, Peter Fisk, Stephen Foster, Simon Hobart, Jonathan Jenkins, David Kemp, Robert Parker and Benjamin Woods. This was the largest loss experienced by any town in the battle, and it shows the patriotic character of the citizens at that period. Colonel Prescott, the commander on the American side, and three of the Pepperell soldiers who lost their lives in the fight, were natives of Groton.

During the War for the Union the record of the town is equally honorable. According to General William Schouler's "History of Massachusetts in the Civil War" (ii. 409), she furnished four hundred men for the public service, which was a surplus of forty-nine over and above all demands; of whom twenty-four were commissioned officers. Forty of these soldiers were either killed in battle or died of their wounds, or of sickness contracted in the army. A marble tablet with their names cut in the stone has been placed in the hall of the Town-House in grateful recognition of their services and dedicated to their memory. The whole amount of money raised and appropriated by the town for war purposes, exclusive of State aid, was thirty-one thousand seven hundred and twenty-four dollars and forty-seven cents ($31,-724.47).

Camp Stevens at Groton.—During the War of the Rebellion, in the autumn of 1862, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established a military camp at Groton, on the triangular piece of land situated in the southwesterly part of the town, and bounded by the Peterborough and Shirley Railroad, the Nashua

River and the road to Shirley Village. It contained eighteen or twenty acres, more or less, and at that time belonged to Joseph Cutts; the entrance was near the angle made by the railroad and the highway. The Fifty-third Regiment of Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, while its ranks were recruiting, was encamped on this ground. The regiment was raised from Groton and Clinton, Leominster, Fitchburg and other towns in the neighborhood belonging to Worcester County, and was mustered into the public service for nine months.

Special Order, No. 916, issued by the Adjutant-General of the Commonwealth, September 19, 1862, contains the following:

"A camp of rendezvous is established at Groton Junction, Middlesex Co., where barracks are being built, which is designated Camp Stevens. Capt. W. C. Sawyer, 23d Regt. Mass. Vols., is appointed Commandant. Due notice will be given when the barracks are ready for use."

Special Order, No. 955, under the date of September 23d, has the following:

"Lindsey Tilden [Charles Linzee Tilden], 20th Regt. Mass. Vols, is detailed for Post Adjutant at Camp Stevens, Groton."

The camp was so named in memory of General Isaac Ingalls Stevens, a native of Andover and a graduate of West Point, who was killed in the battle of Chantilly, Virginia, on September 6, 1862, only a fortnight before the camp was established.

The commandant was Wesley Caleb Sawyer, born in the adjoining town of Harvard, on August 26, 1839, who graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1861. Soon after leaving Cambridge he was commissioned, on October 8, 1861, as a captain in the

Twenty-third Massachusetts Volunteers, and he left the State with that regiment. He was attached to Burnside expedition, that went to North Carolina; in the battle of Newbern, March 14, 1862, he was severely wounded, which resulted in the amputation of his left thigh, and necessarily prevented him from further participation in an active campaign.

The regiment left Camp Stevens on Saturday, November 29th, for New York, where it remained until January 17, 1863, at which time it embarked for New Orleans. Subsequently to the departure of the troops from Groton, the following order was issued:

"COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

"HEAD QUARTERS, BOSTON, Dec. 20, 1862.

"Special Order, No. 1311.

"The troops which were enlisted and mustered into service at Camp Stevens, Groton Junction, having left the Commonwealth for the seat of war, Capt. Wesley C. Sawyer, Commandant of the Camp, is relieved from further service, and I am directed by His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, to thank Capt. Sawyer for the acceptable manner in which he has performed the duties of his post.

"By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

"WILLIAM SCHOULER,

"*Adjt. General.*"

Since the war Captain Sawyer has studied at Göttingen, Germany, where he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He has held the professorship of Philosophy and Rhetoric at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin, but is now connected, as a professor, with the Normal School at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The barracks and other structures used by the soldiers at Camp Stevens have long since disappeared, and not a trace of the former occupation is to be seen.

Years ago some of the buildings were taken down, and the rest were removed, mostly to Ayer. George James Burns, Esq., a lawyer of that town, wrote an interesting article for *The Groton Landmark*, June 25, 1887, which traces the history of many of these buildings.

In the autumn of 1862, Dr. Edward Jarvis, of Dorchester, was appointed by Surgeon-General Dale to visit the various camps in the State, of which there were ten, and report on their sanitary condition. The result of his labors may be found in two communications printed in *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for December 4 and 11, 1862 (LXVII. 364–367 and 381–384, respectively), wherein he makes some criticism on Camp Stevens.

According to the "Record of Massachusetts Volunteers, 1861–65" (I. 390–392), the following soldiers died in camp at Groton: Henry A. Waters, of Shirley, Co. D, on October 25, 1862; Spencer Stockwell, of Athol, Co. E, November 20th; and Daniel P. Hemenway, of Barre, Co. F, December 1st.

The veterans of the war have organized a post of Grand Army of the Republic, which is called the E. S. Clark Post, No. 115. It is named after Major Eusebius Silsby Clark, of Groton, a gallant officer of the Twenty-sixth Massachusetts Volunteers, who was mortally wounded at Winchester, Virginia, on September 19, 1864, and died on October 17, 1864.

The Population of Groton at Different Times.—The town of Groton was formerly a much more important place relatively, both in size and influence, than it is at the present time. According to

the census of 1790, it was then the second town in Middlesex County, Cambridge alone having a larger population. At that time Groton had 322 families, numbering 1840 persons; and Cambridge, 355 families, numbering 2115 persons. Charlestown had a population of 1583, and Newton, 1360. Reading, with 341 families (nineteen more than Groton), numbered 1802 persons (thirty-eight less than Groton). Woburn then had a population of 1727; Framingham, 1598; Marlborough, 1554, and Waltham, 882. Pepperell contained 1132 inhabitants; Shirley, 677; Westford, 1229, and Littleton, 854.

There were at that time in Middlesex County forty-one towns, which number has since been increased to forty-seven towns and seven cities; and in the meanwhile Brighton and Charlestown have been merged in the municipality of Boston, and thus have lost their separate existence. Major Aaron Brown, of Groton, and General Henry Woods, of Pepperell, were the marshals who took the census of the county, with the exception of that small portion lying on the further side of the Merrimack River.

A comparison of the population of the town at different periods is somewhat interesting to those familiar with its history. John Tinker, in a petition to the General Court, dated October, 1659, four years after the incorporation of the town, says that the plantation "Continueth vnpeopled." The report of the committee,—of which Thomas Danforth was chairman,—dated May 23, 1661, and already quoted, states that there were four or five families "planted" at that time. In March, 1676, when the town was

burned by the Indians, it was estimated by the Rev. William Hubbard, in his narrative, that there were then sixty families in the place. Another writer of that period puts the number of dwellings destroyed at sixty-six, and says that only six houses were left standing. From these estimates it would appear that the population of the town at the time of its destruction was between 300 and 350 inhabitants. From March, 1676, until the early spring of 1678 the settlement was abandoned and entirely deserted. In March, 1680, there were forty families in the town, as appears by some statistical returns printed in "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (V. 173) for April, 1851. In March, 1707–8, there were sixty-seven polls ("Collections of the American Statistical Association," p. 146), which would indicate a population of about 300 persons. At the beginning of the year 1755 there were fourteen negro slaves in town—seven men and seven women—who were sixteen years old or upwards.

On June 2, 1763, Governor Francis Bernard sent a message to the General Court, expressing his wish that a census of the Province might be taken; but that body paid no heed to the suggestion. On January 19, 1764, he renewed the proposition, and apparently with better success; for the Legislature, on February 2d, adopted an order carrying out his wishes. The popular heart, however, was not in the work, and no interest was taken in the measure. The people were suspicious of the rulers in England, and jealous of all political interference; and it is but natural that the census proceeded slowly. On March 5, 1765, an

act was passed by the General Court to carry into effect an order which had previously been passed for numbering the people within the Province. This action shows that the Governor's pet scheme was not receiving a warm support.

With these drawbacks, and under such conditions, the first census of the houses, families and number of people in the Province of Massachusetts Bay ever taken was finished in the year 1765. Singularly enough, there are now no returns of this enumeration among the Provincial or State Archives, where they were undoubtedly placed. How or when they disappeared is a matter of conjecture; but probably they were lost amid the confusion that naturally prevailed during the Revolutionary period. Fortunately a copy of this census was found by the late Judge Samuel Dana, of Groton, among some papers of a deceased friend, which had then lately come into his possession; and by him sent to the *Columbian Centinel* newspaper, where it was printed for the first time in the issue of August 17, 1822, more than half a century after the enumeration was made. From this source is derived all the information concerning the figures of the census of 1765; and the printed copy, in the absence of any other, is an authority second in importance only to the original manuscript returns. At that time the town of Groton had 1408 inhabitants.

Akin to this subject, there is in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society a memorandum-book, which contains some interesting facts connected directly or indirectly with the population of

the Commonwealth during the Revolutionary period. According to this authority the population of Groton in the year 1776 was 1639; the number of ratable polls in 1778 was 362, and the number in 1781 was 395.

In compliance with a resolution of Congress, an act was passed by the General Court of Massachusetts on July 2, 1784, requiring the assessors of towns to make certain returns, from which it appears that there were at that time 418 polls in Groton. This was the largest number returned by any town in the county, with the single exception of Cambridge, which had 457 polls; and after Groton came Reading with 399 polls, and Woburn with 395, followed closely by Framingham with 389.

At the several decennial dates of the United States census, the population of Groton has been as follows: In the year 1790, 1,840; 1800, 1,802; 1810, 1,886; 1820, 1,897; 1830, 1,925; 1840, 2,139; 1850, 2,515; 1860, 3,193; 1870, 3,584, and 1880, 1,862. The town of Ayer was incorporated on February 14, 1871, and made up almost entirely from the territory of Groton, which accounts for the great diminution in the population between the last two decennial periods, as given above. The new town started on its corporate existence with a population nearly equal to that of the parent town, and, with all the vigor of youth, soon surpassed it in size.

The population of Groton, as taken by the State in the quinquennial years, has been as follows: In the year 1855, 2,745; 1865, 3,176; 1875, 1,908, and 1885, 1,987. By all the enumerations, National or

State, made during the present century, it will be seen that there has been a steady increase in the population of the town, with the exception of the period between the years 1860 and 1865, when there was a slight decrease of seventeen inhabitants, and of the period between 1875 and 1880, when there was a falling off of forty-six inhabitants. The loss in the first instance was due, of course, to the disturbing effects of the Civil War.

The population of Ayer in the year 1885 was 2190; and if that village had not been separately incorporated, the population of Groton would now be considerably more than 4000 inhabitants. According to the last State census there were thirty-two towns or cities in Middlesex County larger than Groton, and twenty-one towns smaller.

The original Groton Plantation, as granted by the General Court on May 25, 1655, has furnished the entire territory of Ayer; the whole of Pepperell, with the exception of a narrow strip lying along its northern boundary, which once belonged to the West Parish of Dunstable (Hollis); the whole of Shirley, with the exception of a small portion formerly known as "Stow Leg;" one-half of Dunstable; and has contributed more or less to form five other towns, namely, Harvard, Littleton and Westford (including a part of Forge Village), in Massachusetts, besides Nashua and Hollis, in New Hampshire. The total population of this territory is now more than 10,000 inhabitants.

SUMMARY. — *Population of Groton at Different Times.*—Town incorporated on May 25, 1655; in Oc-

tober, 1659, "vnpeopled;" in May, 1661, four or five families; in March, 1676, about 300 inhabitants; in March, 1680, forty families; in March, 1708, 67 polls; in March, 1765, 1408 inhabitants; in 1776, 1639 inhabitants; in 1778, 362 polls; in 1781, 395 polls, and in 1784, 418 polls.

Year.	Inhabitants.	Year.	Inhabitants.
1790	1840	1855	2745
1800	1802	1860	3193
1810	1886	1865	3176
1820	1897	1870	3584
1830	1925	1875	1908
1840	2139	1880	1862
1850	2515	1885	1987

The approximate population of the town, under the national census of 1890, is 2071, though these figures are subject to change in the official count.

Slavery in Groton.—During a long period before the Revolution, Groton had one element in her population which does not now exist, and which to-day has disappeared from almost the whole civilized world. At the beginning of the year 1755 there were fourteen negro slaves in town, seven men and seven women who were sixteen years old or upwards. At that time Townsend had three slaves, two men and one woman; Shirley had one, a man; and Pepperell made no return of having any. Westford had five, but the sex is not given. These facts are gathered from a census of negro slaves in Massachusetts, ordered by the Province, which is published in the third volume, second series, of the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society (pages 95–97).

William Banks, a negro or mulatto, was married at

Groton on December 21, 1719, by Francis Fullam, a justice of peace, to Hannah Wansamug. William appears to have been a slave belonging to Eleazer Robbins, of Groton, and Hannah was an Indian, who is called in the records "late of Lancaster;" but unfortunately the marriage was not a happy one. With all confidence in her husband, the wife bought his freedom, when he proved false to his plight and promise, and deserted her. The story, told in her own words, is found in the Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, June 13, 1724 (page 39):

"A Petition of *Hannah Banks* Indian, shewing that she bought of *Eleazer Robbins* of *Groton* his Servant Man's Time, and gave a Bond of *l.* 15 for Payment of the same, that afterwards she married the said Servant Man, who is since absconded, and the said *Robbins* hath put the said Bond in Suit, and cast the Petitioner into Prison in *Boston*, that the Principal Debt with the Charges hath arisen to *l.* 25 which Mr. *Edward Ruggles* of *Roxbury* hath paid for her, praying this Court would please to enable the said *Edward Ruggles* to Sell such a part of her Land in *Natick*, as will satisfy him for his advance of said *Twenty-Five Pounds.*

"Read and committed to the Committee for Petitions."

The following advertisement, not an unusual one for that period, appears in *The Boston Evening-Post*, July 30, 1739:

RAN away from his Master, Mr. John Woods *of* Groton, *on Thursday the 12th of this Instant* July, *a Negro Man Servant named* Caesar, *about 22 Years of Age, a pretty short well sett Fellow. He carried with him a Blue Coat and Jacket, a pair of Tow Breeches, a Castor Hat, Stockings and Shoes of* his own, *and a Blue Cloth Coat with flower'd Metal Buttons, a white flower'd Jacket, a good Bever Hat, a Gray Wigg, and a pair of new Shoes of* his Master's, *with some other things. It is suspected there is some white Person that may be with him, or design to make Use of his* Master's Apparel *above described.*

Whoever shall take up the said Servant, and bring him to his above-said Master in Groton, *or be a Means of convicting any person or Confederate with said Servant as above suspected, shall have* Five Pounds *Reward for each of them, and all necessary Charges paid.*

Another advertisement appears in *The Boston Gazette and Country Journal*, June 13, 1774, as follows:

Ten Dollars Reward.

RAN AWAY from the Subscriber, *Joseph Moors*, of Groton, in the County of Middlesex, and Province of Massachusetts-Bay, a Molatto Man Servant, named TITUS, about 20 Years of Age, of a midling Stature, wears short curl'd Hair, has one of his Fore-Teeth broke out, took with him a blue Surdan, a Snuff-coloured Coat, and a Pair of white wash'd Leather Breeches, a Pair of new Cow-Hide Pumps and a Furr'd Hat with large Brims, and sundry other Articles of Wearing Apparel.——Whoever will take up said Servant and confine him in any of his Majesty's Goals, so that the Owner may have him again, shall have TEN DOLLARS Reward and all necessary Charges paid, by

JOSEPH MOORS.

☞ *All Masters of Vessels and others, are hereby Caution'd against Harbouring, Concealing, or carrying off said Servant, as they would thereby avoid the Penalty of the Law.*

The following marriage is entered in the church records under the date December 28, 1742: "Priamus (Cap^{t} Boydens Negro man servant [)] to Margr^{t}. Molatto formerly servant to S. S. both of Groton." It is also recorded that Margaret, the servant of Samuel Scripture, Jr., was baptized on January 30, 1733–34, and that she owned the church covenant at the same time. The initials "S. S." stand for Samuel Scripture. This negro couple was afterward blessed with a family of children, and they lived on the west side of the Nashua River, a short distance north of the county road to Townsend. His surname was Lew or Lue, and his given name became contracted into Primus; and to this day the rise of ground, near the place where the Pepperell road leaves the main road, is known as Primus Hill, so called after him. Mr. Butler thinks that perhaps Margaret's name was

Lew. See his History (page 454). Their oldest child, —Zelah, a corruption of Barzillai,—born at Groton on November 5, 1743, was a famous musician, who lived at Dracut and the father of numerous children who were also musicians. He was a fifer in Captain John Ford's company of the twenty-seventh Massachusetts Regiment, in service at the siege of Boston, and was present at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

About the year 1740 there was a negro slave in Groton by the name of Boad, who used to look after the cattle sent up to Groton Gore in the spring to be pastured during the summer. See "The Boundary Lines of Old Groton" (page 37). The church records contains the entry of the baptism of Hagar, a servant of William Green, on August 1, 1765.

Akin to the subject of slavery in Groton is this item, from *The Groton Landmark*, November 14, 1885:—

"Gov. Boutwell has in an old scrap-book the following interesting Memorandum:

"*August*, 1856.

"Noah Shattuck, esq., informs me that there were eleven slaves in Groton when slavery was abolished, and he mentioned the following names: Chloe Williams, Phillis Cutler, Phillis Sartell, Ichabod Davis, Fanny Borden and William Case. Phineas Wait also owned one slave."

Noah Shattuck, a son of Job and Sarah (Hartwell) Shattuck, was born on August 30, 1772, and died on September 28, 1858.

The following entry is found in the town records, and refers to the last survivor of negro slavery within the limits of the town. The institution was abolished by the adoption of the State Constitution in the year

1780, the courts holding that the Bill of Rights swept away the remnants of involuntary servitude:

"Phillis Walby, servant to Josiah Sawtell, Jun., deceased, died at Groton, aged 79, February —, 1821."

The following extract from the town records refers to Titus, who is advertised as a runaway in *The Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal*, June 13, 1774, as mentioned above. The advertiser was a son of Abraham Moors, the owner of Zebina, the slave-mother:

"Titus, a molato boy born of Zebinah, a negro slave to Mr. Abraham Moors, March —, 1751."

A List of the Town Clerks (from the year 1662 to the present time, with the dates of their election and terms of service. In this list the years are given according to the new style of reckoning, and in specifying dates, small fractions of years are overlooked. The town was attacked by the Indians in the spring of 1676, and abandoned by the inhabitants until March, 1678.

The earliest records of the town were written by Richard Sawtell, and begin on June 23, 1662, though his election as town clerk was not recorded until December 24, 1662. During the period since that date there have been thirty-four town clerks, of whom five, namely, Jonathan Morse, William Longley, Jr., James Blanchard, Jonathan Sheple and Samuel Rockwood, died while in office—Longley being killed by the Indians on July 27, 1694. During the early part of 1682 Captain James Parker, Richard Blood and Jonas Prescott made entries in the records, though no one of them appears to have been at the time town clerk. Jon-

athan Morse was the first who signed the records with his name, though the practice with him was not constant. William Longley, William Longley, Jr., and John Longley were representatives of three successive generations in the same family, being father, son and grandson. On December 9, 1687, William Longley, Jr., was chosen clerk, but he acted as such during only a part of the next town meeting on May 21, 1688, when he was followed by Josiah Parker, who made the entry for so much of that meeting as occurred after his election. Mr. Bingham, the present occupant, has filled the position for more than thirty-five years continuously—by far the longest term of service of any town clerk. Joseph Lakin, with a record of seventeen years, comes next to him in length of time. Of all the persons mentioned in the list, only the last three are now living, namely, Mr. Boutwell, Mr. Parker and Mr. Brigham ; and their combined term of service covers just forty-four years. Since the death of Mr. Park, which took place on September 23, 1875, these three have been the only survivors. Mr. Butler died on October 7, 1854, and Mr. Boynton on November 30, 1854—less than eight weeks apart.

Date of Election.

December 24, 1652, Richard Sawtell, 1662–1664.
January 27, 1665, James Fisk, 1665.
December 2, 1665, William Longley, 1666, 1667.
December 11, 1667, John Page, 1668.
November 11, 1668, Richard Blood, 1669.
November 10, 1669, John Morse, 1670–1676.
(Town abandoned during two years.)
1678, James Parker, 1678, 1679.
December 23, 1679, John Morse, 1680, 1681.
1682, Jonathan Morse (died July 31, 1686), 1682–1686.

December 10, 1686, Josiah Parker, 1686, 1687.
December 9, 1687, William Longley, Jr., 1688 (a short time only).
May 21, 1688, Josiah Parker, 1688–1691.
December 10, 1691, Jonas Prescott, 1692.
December 12, 1692, William Longley, Jr. (killed July 27, 1694), 1693–1694.
March 4, 1695, James Blanchard, 1695.
March 3, 1696, Jonas Prescott, 1696.
December 10, 1696, James Blanchard (died Feb., 1704), 1697–1704.
March 8, 1704, Thomas Tarbell, 1704, 1705.
March 5, 1706, Joseph Lakin, 1706–1722.
March 5, 1723, John Longley, 1723–1726.
March 7, 1727, Joseph Lakin, 1727.
March 5, 1728, John Longley, 1728, 1729.
March 3, 1730, Jonathan Sheple, 1730.
March 2, 1731, Thomas Tarbell, Jr., 1731–1733.
March 5, 1734, Jonathan Sheple, 1734–1744.
March 5, 1745, Thomas Tarbell, Jr., 1745–1756.
March 1, 1757, Abel Lawrence, 1757–1764.
March 5, 1765, Oliver Prescott, 1765–1777.
March 3, 1778, Isaac Farnsworth, 1778–1781.
March 5, 1782, Abel Bancroft, 1782, 1783.
March 2, 1784, Jonathan Keep, 1784.
March 1, 1785, Abel Bancroft was chosen, but declined.
March 1, 1785, Isaac Farnsworth, 1785–1787.
March 4, 1788, Nathaniel Sartel was chosen, but declined.
March 10, 1788, Joseph Shed, 1788–1794.
March 3, 1795, Samuel Lawrence, 1795–1798.
March 5, 1799, Samuel Rockwood (died May 29, 1804), 1799–1804.
June 18, 1804, Oliver Prescott, Jr., 1804–1810.
March 5, 1811, Joseph Mansfield, 1811–1814.
March 7, 1815, Caleb Butler, 1815–1817.
March 3, 1818, Joseph Mansfield, 1818.
March 2, 1819, Noah Shattuck, 1819–1822.
March 3, 1823, Caleb Butler, 1823–1831.
March 6, 1832, John Boynton, 1832, 1833.
March 4, 1834, John Gray Park, 1834–1836.
March 6, 1837, John Boynton, 1837–1845.
March 3, 1846, George Sewall Boutwell, 1846–1850.
March 4, 1851, John Warren Parker, 1851–1854.
March 5, 1855, George Dexter Brigham, 1855–

A LIST OF THE TREASURERS (so far as they are found in the town records, with the dates of their election and terms of service).—Alden Warren served during twenty-four years, which is the longest term of any treasurer; and next to him, in length of service, was Benjamin Bancroft, who filled the office for seventeen years. After him came Calvin Boynton, who served during sixteen years, and then Capt. Ephraim Sawtell, with a term of fifteen years. William Livermore, who was treasurer in 1845, is the senior survivor; and, with the exception of the brothers George and Walter Shattuck, all his successors are still alive.

Date of Election.	
[March ?], 1697,	Capt. Jas. Parker.
March 1, 1709,	"Samuill Woods trasewer"
March 7, 1710,	Samuel Woods.
March 6, 1711,	Samuel Woods.
March 4, 1712,	Jonathan Boiden.
March 3, 1713,	Jonathan Boiden.
March 2, 1714,	"Shebuall hobart"
March 1, 1715,	Shebuel Hobart.
March 6, 1716,	Jonathan Boiden.
March 5, 1717,	Jonathan Boiden.
March 4, 1718,	John Longley.
March 3, 1719,	John Longley.
March 1, 1720,	John Longley.
March 7, 1721,	John Longley.
March 6, 1722,	John Longley.
March 5, 1723,	Thomas Lawrence.
March 3, 1724,	Thomas Lawrence.
March 2, 1725,	Thomas Lawrence.
March 1, 1726,	Thos. Lawrence, Sr
March 7, 1727,	Thomas Lawrence.
March 5, 1728,	Thomas Lawrence.
March 4, 1729,	Samuel Tarbell.
March 3, 1730,	Samuel Tarbell.
March 2, 1731,	Samuel Tarbell.
March 7, 1732,	"Justis Prescott."
March 6, 1733,	Benj. Prescott, Esq.
March 5, 1734	(In the list of town officers chosen on this day the treasurer's name is omitted, probably through an oversight but without doubt it was Benjamin Prescott).
March 4, 1735,	Benj. Prescott, Esq.
March 2, 1736,	Benj. Prescott, Esq.
March 7, 1737,	Benj. Prescott, Esq.
March 6, 1738,	"Justice Sawtell."
March 4, 1739,	Nath. Sawtell, Esq.
1740	(no record is found).
March 3, 1741,	Nath. Sawtell, Esq.
1742	(no record is found).
March 1, 1743,	"Deacon Longley."
March 6, 1744,	Dea. John Longley
March 5, 1745,	Dea. John Longley
March 3, 1746,	Dea. John Longley
March 3, 1747,	Dea. John Longley

March 1, 1748, Dea. John Longley
March 6, 1749, Dea. John Longley
March 5, 1750, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 5, 1751, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 3, 1752, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 6, 1753, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 5, 1754, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 4, 1755, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 2, 1756, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 1, 1757, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 7, 1758, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 6, 1759, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 4, 1760, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 3, 1761, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 2, 1762, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 1, 1763, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 6, 1764, Capt. Eph. Sawtell
March 5, 1765, Benjamin Bancroft
March 4, 1766, Benjamin Bancroft
March 3, 1767, Benjamin Bancroft
March 1, 1768, Benjamin Bancroft
March 7, 1769, Benjamin Bancroft
March 6, 1770, Benjamin Bancroft
March 5, 1771, Benjamin Bancroft
March 3, 1772, Benjamin Bancroft
March 2, 1773, Benjamin Bancroft
March 1, 1774, Dea. Benj. Bancroft
March 7, 1775, Dea. Benj. Bancroft
March 5, 1776, Dea. Benj. Bancroft
March 4, 1777, Dea. Benj. Bancroft
March 3, 1778, Dea. Benj. Bancroft
March 2, 1779, Dea. Benj. Bancroft
March 7, 1780, Dea. Benj. Bancroft
March 6, 1781, Dea. Benj. Bancroft
March 5, 1782, Lieut. Jona. Keep.
March 4, 1783, Lieut. Jona. Keep.
March 2, 1784, Israel Hobart, Esq.
March 1, 1785, Israel Hobart, Esq.
March 7, 1786, Isaiah Edes.
March 6, 1787, Isaiah Edes.
March 4, 1788, Isaiah Edes.
March 3, 1789, Isaiah Edes.
March 2, 1790, Isaiah Edes.
March 1, 1791, Isaiah Edes.
March 6, 1792, Isaiah Edes.
March 5, 1793, Isaiah Edes.
March 4, 1794, Isaiah Edes.
March 3, 1795, Isaiah Edes.
March 1, 1796, Joseph Shed.
March 7, 1797, Joseph Shed.
March 6, 1798, Joseph Shed.
March 5, 1799, Joseph Shed.
March 4, 1800, Joseph Shed.
March 3, 1801, Joseph Shed.
March 2, 1802, Joseph Shed.
March 1, 1803, Joseph Shed.
March 6, 1804, Solomon Tarbell.
March 5, 1805, Solomon Tarbell.
March 4, 1806, Lieut. Sol. Tarbell.
March, 3, 1807, Lieut. Sol. Tarbell.
March 1, 1808, Lieut. Sol. Tarbell.
March 7, 1809, Lieut. Sol. Tarbell.
March 6, 1810, Lieut. Sol. Tarbell.
March 5, 1811, Lieut. Sol. Tarbell.
March 3, 1812, Lieut. Sol. Tarbell.
March 2, 1813, Lieut. Sol. Tarbell.
April 4, 1814, Alpheus Richardson.
March 7, 1815, Alpheus Richardson
March 5, 1816, Calvin Boynton.
March 4, 1817, Calvin Boynton.
March 3, 1818, Calvin Boynton.
March 2, 1819, Calvin Boynton.
March 7, 1820, Calvin Boynton.
March 6, 1821, Calvin Boynton.
March 5, 1822, Calvin Boynton.
March 3, 1823, Calvin Boynton.
March 2, 1824, Calvin Boynton.
March 1, 1825, Calvin Boynton.
March 7, 1826, Calvin Boynton.
March 6, 1827, Calvin Boynton.
March 4, 1828, Calvin Boynton.
March 3, 1829, Calvin Boynton.

Date of Election.	*Date of Election.*
March 2, 1830, Calvin Boynton.	March 4, 1861, Alden Warren.
March 1, 1831, Calvin Boynton.	March 3, 1862, Alden Warren.
March 6, 1832, John Peabody.	March 2, 1863, Alden Warren.
March 5, 1833, John Peabody.	March 7, 1864, Alden Warren.
March 4, 1834, John Peabody.	March 6, 1865, Alden Warren.
March 3, 1835, John Peabody.	March 5, 1866, Alden Warren.
March 1, 1836, John Peabody.	March 4, 1867, Alden Warren.
March 6, 1837, John Peabody.	March 2, 1868, Alden Warren.
March 6, 1838, John Peabody.	March 1, 1869, Alden Warren.
March 5, 1839, John Peabody.	March 7, 1870, Alden Warren.
March 3, 1840, John Peabody.	March 6, 1871, Alden Warren.
March 2, 1841, John Peabody.	March 4, 1872, Alden Warren.
March 1, 1842, John Peabody.	March 3, 1873, Alden Warren.
March 7, 1843, John Peabody.	March 2, 1874, Alden Warren.
March 5, 1844, Daniel Shattuck.	March 1, 1875, Alden Warren.
March 4, 1845, Wm. Livermore, Jr	March 6, 1876, Alden Warren.
March 3, 1846, George Shattuck.	March 5, 1877, Alden Warren.
March 2, 1847, George Shattuck.	March 4, 1878, Alden Warren.
March 6, 1848, George Shattuck.	March 3, 1879, George S. Gates.
March 6, 1849, Walter Shattuck.	March 1, 1880, George S. Gates.
March 5, 1850, Walter Shattuck.	March 7, 1881, George S. Gates.
March 4, 1851, Walter Shattuck.	April 3, 1882, George S. Gates.
March 2, 1852, Walter Shattuck.	April 2, 1883, George S. Gates.
March 1, 1853, Daniel Needham.	April 7, 1884, George S. Gates.
March 6, 1854, Daniel Needham.	April 6, 1885, George S. Gates.
March 5, 1855, Alden Warren.	April 5, 1886, George S. Gates.
March 3, 1856, Alden Warren.	April 4, 1887, George S. Gates.
March 2, 1857, Alden Warren.	April 2, 1888, George S. Gates.
March 1, 1858, Alden Warren.	April 1, 1889, George S. Gates.
March 7, 1859, Alden Warren.	April 7, 1890, George S. Gates.
March 5, 1860, Alden Warren.	

THE OLD STORES AND THE POST-OFFICE OF GROTON.—Tradition has preserved little or nothing in regard to the earliest trading-stores of Groton. It is probable, however, that they were kept in dwelling-houses by the occupants, who sold articles in common use for the convenience of the neighborhood, and at the same time pursued their regular vocations.

Jonas Cutler was keeping a shop on the site of Mr. Gerrish's store before the Revolution, and the following notice, signed by him, appears in *The Massachusetts Gazette* (Boston), November 28, 1768:

"A THEFT.

"Whereas on the 19th or 20th Night of November Instant the Shop of the Subscriber was broke open in *Groton*, and from thence was stollen a large Sum of Cash, viz., four Half Johannes, two Guineas, two Half Ditto, One Pistole mill'd, nine Crowns, a Considerable Number of Dollars, with a considerable Quantity of small Silver & Copper, together with one Bever Hat, about fifteen Yards of Holland, eleven Bandannas, blue Ground with white, twelve red ditto with white, Part of a Piece of Silk Romails, 1 Pair black Worsted Hose, 1 strip'd Cap, 8 or 10 black barcelona Handkerchiefs, Part of a Piece of red silver'd Ribband, blue & white do, Part of three Pieces of black Sattin Ribband, part of three pieces of black Tafferty ditto, two bundles of Razors, Part of 2 Dozen Penknives, Part of 2 Dozen ditto with Seals, Part of 1 Dozen Snuff Boxes, Part of 3 Dozen Shoe Buckels, Part of several Groce of Buttons, one Piece of gellow [yellow?] Ribband, with sundry Articles not yet known of—— Whoever will apprehend the said Thief or Thieves, so that he or they may be brought to Justice, shall receive TEN DOLLARS Reward and all necessary Charges paid. JONAS CUTLER.

"*Groton, Nov.* 22, 1763 [8].

"☞ If any of the above mentioned Articles are offered to Sail, it is desired they may be stop'd with the Thief, and Notice given to said *Cutler* or to the Printers."

On October 21, 1773, a noted burglar was hanged in Boston for various robberies committed in different parts of the State, and covering a period of some years. The unfortunate man was present at the delivery of a sermon by the Reverend Samuel Stillman, preached at his own request, on the Sunday before his execution; and to many of the printed copies is appended an account of his life. In it the poor fellow states that he is only twenty-one years old, and that he was born in Groton of a respectable family.

He confessed that he broke into Mr. Cutler's shop, and took away "a good piece of broad-cloth, a quantity of silk mitts and several pieces of silk handkerchiefs." He was hardly seventeen years of age at the time of this burglary. To the present generation it would seem cruel and wicked to hang a misguided youth for offences of this character.

Mr. Cutler died on December 19, 1782; and he was succeeded in business by Major Thomas Gardner, who erected the building formerly known as Gerrish's Block, which was moved away in the summer of 1885. Major Gardner lived in the house now owned by the Watters family.

Near the end of the last century a store, situated a little north of the late Benjamin Perkins Dix's house, was kept by James Brazer, which had an extensive trade for twenty miles in different directions. It was here that the late Amos Lawrence served an apprenticeship of seven years, which ended on April 22, 1807; and he often spoke of his success in business as due, in part, to the experience in this store. Late in life he wrote that "the knowledge of everyday affairs which I acquired in my business apprenticeship at Groton has been a source of pleasure and profit even in my last ten years' discipline."

The quantity of New England rum and other liquors sold at that period would astonish the temperance people of the present day. Social drinking was then a common practice, and each forenoon some stimulating beverage was served up to the customers in order to keep their trade. There were five clerks employed in the establishment; and many years later

Mr. Lawrence, in giving advice to a young student in college, wrote:

"In the first place, take this for your motto at the commencement of your journey, that the difference of going *just right*, or a *little wrong*, will be the difference of finding yourself in good quarters, or in a miserable bog or slough, at the end of it. Of the whole number educated in the Groton stores for some years before and after myself, no one else, to my knowledge escaped the bog or slough; and my escape I trace to the simple fact of having put a restraint upon my appetite. We five boys were in the habit, every forenoon, of making a drink compounded of rum, raisins, sugar, nutmeg, &c., with biscuit,—all palatable to eat and drink. After being in the store four weeks, I found myself admonished by my appetite of the approach of the hour for indulgence. Thinking the habit might make trouble if allowed to grow stronger, without further apology to my seniors I declined partaking with them. My first resolution was to abstain for a week, and, when the week was out, for a month, and then for a year. Finally, I resolved to abstain for the rest of my apprenticeship, which was for five years longer. During that whole period, I never drank a spoonful though I mixed gallons daily for my old master and his customers." [1]

The following advertisement is found in the *Columbian Centinel* (Boston), June 8, 1805:

"*James Brazer*,

WOULD inform the public that having dissolved the Copartnership lately subsisting between AARON BROWN, Esq. SAMUEL HALE and the Subscriber; he has taken into Copartnership his son WILLIAM F. BRAZER, and the business in future will be transacted under the firm

JAMES BRAZER & SON;

They will offer for sale, at their store in *Groton*, within six days a complete assortment of English, India, and W. India GOODS, which they will sell for ready pay, at as low a rate as any store in the Country.

"JAMES BRAZER.

"Groton, May 29, 1805."

"Squire Brazer," as he was generally called, was a man of wealth and position. He was one of the

[1] Diary and Correspondence of Amos Lawrence, pages 24, 25.

founders of Groton Academy, and his subscription of £15 to the building fund in the year 1792 was as large as that given by any other person. In the early part of this century he built the house now belonging to the academy and situated just south of it, where he lived until his death, which occurred on November 10, 1818. His widow, also, took a deep interest in the institution, and at her decease, April 14, 1826, bequeathed to it nearly five thousand dollars.

After Mr. Brazer's death the store was moved across the street, where, until the summer of 1885, it remained, forming the wing of Gerrish's Block. The post-office was in the north end of it during Mr. Butler's term as postmaster. About this time the son, William Farwell Brazer, built a store nearly opposite to the Academy, which he kept during some years. It was made finally into a dwelling-house, and occupied by the late Jeremiah Kilbourn.

The brick store opposite to the High School was built in the year 1835, by Henry Woods, for his own place of business, and afterwards kept by him and George S. Boutwell, the style of the firm being Woods & Boutwell. Mr. Woods died on January 12, 1841, and he was succeeded by his surviving partner, who carried on the store for a long time, even while holding the highest executive position in the State. In the spring of 1855, when he began to practice law, Governor Boutwell sold out the business to Brigham & Parker. The post-office was in this building during the years 1839 and 1840 and until April, 1841. For the past thirty years it has been occupied by various firms, but is now kept by John H. Sheedy & Company.

During the last war with England, Eliphalet Wheeler had a store where Miss Betsey Capell and her sisters, Sarah and Catherine, in more modern times, kept a haberdasher's shop. It is situated opposite to the Common, and is now used as a dwelling-house. They were daughters of John Capell, who owned the saw-mill and grist-mill, which formerly stood on the present site of the Tileston and Hollingsworth paper-mills, on the Great Road, northwest of the village. Afterward Wheeler and his brother, Abner, took Major Thomas Gardner's store, where he was followed by William F. Brazer, Park & Woods, Park & Potter, Potter & Gerrish and lastly by Charles Gerrish, who kept it for more than thirty years. It was given up as a store in July, 1884, and has since been moved away and made into a tenement-house.

Near the beginning of the present century there were three military companies in town: the Artillery Company, commanded at one time by Captain James Lewis; the North Company, by Captain Jonas Gilson, and the South Company, by Captain Abel Tarbell. Two of these officers were soon promoted in the regimental service; Captain Tarbell to a colonelcy, and Captain Lewis to a majorate. Captain Gilson resigned and was succeeded by Captain Noah Shattuck. They had their spring and fall training-days, when they drilled as a battalion on the Common,—there were no trees there then,—and marched through the village. They formed a very respectable command, and sometimes would be drawn up before Squire Brazer's store, and at other times before Major

Gardner's, to be treated with toddy, which was then considered a harmless krink.

David Child had a store, about the beginning of the century, at the south corner of Main and Pleasant Streets, nearly opposite to the site of the Orthodox meeting-house, though Pleasant Street was not then laid out. It was subsequently occupied by Deacon Jonathan Stow Adams, then by Artemas Wood, and lastly by Milo Henry Shattuck. This was moved off nearly twenty years ago, and a spacious building put up a few rods north, on the old tavern site across the way, by Mr. Shattuck, who still carries on a large business.

Alpheus Richardson kept a book-store, about the year 1815, in his dwelling, at the south corner of Main and Elm Streets, besides having a book-bindery in the same building. Soon afterward an L was added to the house, and for a short time he carried on a country variety store in connection with his other business. The book-store and binder's shop were continued until about 1850. It is said that this house was built originally by Colonel James Prescott, for the use of his son, Abijah, as a store; but it never was so occupied by him.

Joseph and Phineas Hemenway, uncles of the late Augustus Hemenway, of Boston, built a store on the north corner of Main and Elm Streets, about the year 1815, where they carried on a trading business. They were succeeded by one Richardson, then by David Childs; and finally by John Hamilton Spalter, who had for many years a book-store and binder's shop in the building, which is now used as a dwell-

ing-house. At the present time Mr. Spalter is living in Keene, New Hampshire.

About the year 1826, General Thomas Adams Staples built and kept a store on Main Street, directly north of the Orthodox meeting-house. He was followed successively by Benjamin Franklin Lawrence, Henry Hill and Walter Shattuck. At one time the style of the firm was Shattuck, Brown & Company. The building was burned down very early on Tuesday morning, November 17, 1874, and its site is now occupied by Dr. David Roscoe Steere's house.

In November, 1844, a large building was moved from Hollis Street to the corner of Main and Court Streets. It was put up originally as a meeting-house for the Second Adventists or Millerites, as they were called in this neighborhood, after William Miller, one of the founders of the sect; and during the following winter and spring it was fitted up in a commodious manner, with shops in the basement and a spacious hall in the second story. The building was known as Liberty Hall, and formed a conspicuous structure in the village. It was first occupied by tenants in July, 1845. The post-office was kept there while Mr. Lothrop and Mr. Andruss were the postmasters. It was used as a shoe-store, a grocery and a bakery, when, on Sunday, March 31, 1878, it was burned to the ground.

The brick store, owned by the Dix family, was built and kept by Aaron Brown, near the beginning of the century. He was followed by Moses Carleton, and after him came ——— and Merriam, and then

Benjamin P. Dix. It is situated at the corner of Main Street and Broad Meadow Road, and is now used as a dwelling-house. A very good engraving of this building is given in *The Groton Herald*, May 8, 1830, which is regarded by persons who remember it at that time as a faithful representation, though it has since undergone some changes.

Near the end of the last century Major William Swan traded in the house now occupied by Charles Woolley, Jr., north of the Common, near the old burying-ground. It was Major Swan who set out the elms in front of this house, which was the Rev. Dr. Chaplin's dwelling for many years.

At the beginning of this century two daughters of Isaac Bowers, a son of Landlord Bowers, had a dry-goods shop in the house owned and occupied by the late Samuel William Rowe, Esq. About the year 1825 Walter Shattuck opened a store in the building originally intended for the Presbyterian Church, opposite to the present entrance of the Groton Cemetery. Before the Revolution there was a store kept by Jonathan Clark Lewis, near the site of Captain Asa Stillman Lawrence's house, north of the Town Hall. Mr. Lewis was an Englishman by birth, and died on April 7, 1781. See "Groton Epitaphs" for a cut of the family coat-of-arms, which appears on his grave-stone. There was a trader in town, Thomas Sackville Tufton by name, who died in the year 1778, though I do not know the site of his shop. Captain Samuel Ward, a native of Worcester, and an officer in the French and Indian War, was engaged in business at Groton some time before the Revolution. He

removed to Lancaster, where at one time he was the town clerk, and died there on August 14, 1826.

The Groton Post-Office.—The Groton post-office was established at the very beginning of the present century, and before that time letters intended for this town were sent through private hands. Previous to the Revolution there were only a few post-offices in the Province, and often persons in distant parts of Massachusetts received their correspondence at Boston. In *The Boston Gazette, or County Journal*, June 30, 1755, a letter is advertised for Samuel Bowers, of Groton, who at that time kept a tavern; and in the same newspaper of August 4, 1755, another is advertised for Captain Samuel Parker, and one for Dudley Woodbridge, who lived probably at Groton, Connecticut. It is also stated that "none of the above Letters came by the last mails." In the supplement to *The Boston Gazette*, February 9, 1756, letters are advertised as remaining uncalled for, at the Boston office, addressed to William Lakin and Abigail Parker, both of Groton, as well as to Samuel Manning, Townsend; William Gleany, Dunstable; and Jonathan Lawrence, Littleton. Nearly five months afterward letters—and perhaps these identical ones—are advertised for the same persons in *The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, July 1, 1756, as still uncalled for. The name of David Farnum, America, appears also in this list, and it is hoped that wherever he was he received the missive. The names of Oliver Lack (intended for Lakin) and Ebenezer Parker, both of this town, are given in another list printed in the *Gazette* of June 28, 1762; and in the same issue one is advertised for

Samuel Starling, America. In the supplement to the *Gazette*, October 10, 1768, Ebenezer Farnsworth, Jr., and George Pierce, of Groton, had letters advertised; and in the *Gazette* October 18, 1773, the names of Amos Farnsworth, Jonas Farnsworth and William Lawrence, all of this town, appear in the list. In the *Columbian Centinel* (Boston), January 29, 1794, a letter is advertised for Benjamin Tarbel, of Groton.

I find no record of a post-rider passing through Groton, during the period immediately preceding the establishment of the post-office; but there was doubtless such a person who used to ride on horseback, equipped with saddle-bags, and delivered at regular intervals the weekly newspapers and letters along the way. In the year 1794, according to the History of New Ipswich, New Hampshire (page 129), a post-rider, by the name of Balch, rode from Boston to Keene one week and back the next. Probably he passed through this town and served the inhabitants with his favors.

Several years ago I procured, through the kindness of General Charles Devens, at that time a member of President Hayes's Cabinet, some statistics of the Groton post-office, which are contained in the following letter:

"POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, APPOINTMENT OFFICE,
"WASHINGTON, D. C., September 3, 1877.

"HON. CHARLES DEVENS, Attorney-General, Department of Justice.

"SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from Samuel A. Green, of Boston, Massachusetts, with your indorsement thereon, requesting to be furnished with a list of postmasters at the office of Groton, in that State, from the date of its establishment to the present time.

"In reply, I have the honor to inform you, that the fire which con-

sumed the department building, on the night of the fifteenth of December, 1836, destroyed three of the earliest record-books of this office; but by the aid of the auditor's ledger-books, it is ascertained that the office began to render accounts on the first of January, 1801, but the exact day is not known. Samuel Dana was the first postmaster, and the following list furnishes the history of the office, as shown by the old records.

"Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Office probably established in November, 1800. Samuel Dana began rendering accounts January 1, 1801. Wm. M. Richardson, October 1, 1804.

"From this time the exact dates are known.

"Abraham Moore, appointed postmaster January 31, 1812.

Eliphalet Wheeler, August 20, 1815.
James Lewis, September 9, 1815.
Caleb Butler, July 1, 1826.
Henry Woods, January 15, 1839.
George S. Boutwell, January 22, 1841.
Caleb Butler, April 15, 1841.
Welcome Lothrop, December 21, 1846.
Artemas Wood, February 22, 1849.
George H. Brown, May 4, 1849.
Theodore Andruss, April 11, 1853.
George W. Fiske, April 22, 1861.
Henry Woodcock, February 13, 1867.
Miss Hattie E. Farnsworth, June 11, 1869, who is the present incumbent.

"Each postmaster held the office up to the appointment of his successor, but it is probable that Mr. Boutwell and Mr. A. Wood, although regularly appointed, did not accept, judging by the dates of the next postmasters.

"As to the 'income' of the office, to which allusion is made, it is very difficult to obtain any of the amounts; but the first year and the last year are herewith appended, as follows:—

(1801) FISCAL YEAR (1876)			
"First quarter,	$1.91	First quarter,	$314.15
Second "	2.13	Second "	296.94
Third "	2.93	Third "	305.71
Fourth "	5.29	Fourth "	294.28
For the year,	$12.26	For the year,	$1,211.08

"Trusting the foregoing, which is believed to be correct, will be acceptable to you, I am, sir, respectfully,

"Your ob't serv't,

"JAMES H. MARR,
"*Acting First Ass't P. M. General.*"

It will be seen that the net income of the office, during the first seventy-five years of its existence, increased one hundred-fold.

This letter of the Acting First Assistant Postmaster-General supplements the account in Butler's "History of Groton" (pages 249–251). According to Mr. Butler's statement, the post-office was established on September 29, 1800, and the Honorable Samuel Dana was appointed the first postmaster. No mail, however, was delivered at the office until the last week in November. For a while it came to Groton by the way of Leominster, certainly a very indirect route. This fact appears from a letter written to Judge Dana, by the Postmaster-General, under the date of December 18, 1800, apparently in answer to a request to have the mail brought directly from Boston. In this communication the writer says:—

"It appears to me, that the arrangement which has been made for carrying the mail to Groton is sufficient for the accommodation of the inhabitants, as it gives them the opportunity of receiving their letters regularly, and with despatch, once a week. The route from Boston by Leominster, to Groton is only twenty miles farther than by the direct route, and the delay of half a day, which is occasioned thereby, is not of much consequence to the inhabitants of Groton. If it should prove that Groton produces as much postage as Lancaster and Leominster, the new contract for carrying the mail, which is to be in operation on the first of October next, will be made by Concord and Groton to Walpole, and a branch from Concord to Marlborough.

"I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

"JOS. HABERSHAM."

The amount of postage received from the office,

after deducting the necessary expenses, including the postmaster's salary, was, for the first year after its establishment, about twelve dollars, or three dollars for three months. In the year 1802 it was thirty-six dollars, or nine dollars for three months, a large proportional increase. At this time the mail came once a week only, and was brought by the stage-coach.

Samuel Dana, the first postmaster, was a prominent lawyer at the time of his appointment. He was the son of the Reverend Samuel Dana, of Groton, and born in this town June 26, 1767. He occupied a high position in the community, and exerted a wide influence in the neighborhood. At a later period he was president of the Massachusetts Senate, a member of Congress, and finally chief justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas. He died at Charlestown, on November 20, 1835.

Judge Dana kept the post-office in his own office, which was in the same building as that of the Honorable Timothy Bigelow, another noted lawyer. These eminent men were on opposite sides of the same entry, and generally on opposite sides of all important cases in the northern part of Middlesex County. The building stood on the site of Governor Boutwell's house, and is still remembered as the medical office of the venerable Dr. Amos Bancroft. It was afterward moved away, and now stands near the railway-station, where it is occupied as a dwelling-house. Judge Dana held the position during four years, and he was succeeded by William Merchant Richardson, Esq., afterward the chief justice of the Superior Court of New Hampshire. Mr. Richardson was a graduate of Har-

vard College in the class of 1797, and at the time of his appointment as postmaster had recently finished his professional studies in Groton, under the guidance of Judge Dana. After his admission to the bar Mr. Richardson entered into partnership with his former instructor, succeeding him as postmaster in July, 1804; and the office was still kept in the same building. During Judge Richardson's term the net revenue to the department rose from nine dollars to about twenty-eight dollars for three months. He held the position nearly eight years, and was followed by Abraham Moore, who was appointed on January 31, 1812.

Mr. Moore was a native of Bolton, Massachusetts, where he was born on January 5, 1785. He graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1806, and studied law at Groton with the Honorable Timothy Bigelow, and after his admission to the bar settled here as a lawyer. His office was on the site of the north end of Gerrish's Block, and it was here that the post-office was kept. During his administration the average income from the office was about thirty-three dollars for the quarter. In the summer of 1815 Mr. Moore resigned the position and removed to Boston.

Eliphalet Wheeler, who kept the store lately occupied by Mr. Gerrish, was appointed in Mr. Moore's stead, and the post-office was transferred to his place of business. He, however, was not commissioned, owing, it is thought, to his political views; and Major James Lewis, who was sound in his politics, received the appointment in his stead. Major Lewis retained Mr. Wheeler for a short time as his assistant, and

during this period the duties were performed by him in his own store. Shortly afterward Caleb Butler, Esq., was appointed the assistant, and he continued to hold the position for eight years. During this time the business was carried on in Mr. Butler's law-office, and the revenue to the government reached the sum of fifty dollars a quarter. His office was then in a small building,—just south of Mr. Hoar's tavern,—which was moved away about the year 1820, and taken to the lot where Colonel Needham's house now stands, at the fork of Main and Hollis Streets. It was fitted up as a dwelling, and subsequently moved away again. At this time the old store of Mr. Brazer, who had previously died, was brought from over the way, and occupied by Mr. Butler, on the site of his former office.

On July 1, 1826, Mr. Butler, who had been Major Lewis' assistant for many years and performed most of the duties of the office, was appointed postmaster.

Mr. Butler was a native of Pelham, New Hampshire, where he was born on September 13, 1776, and a graduate of Dartmouth College in the class of 1800. He had been the preceptor of Groton Academy for some years, and was widely known as a critical scholar. He had previously studied law with the Honorable Luther Lawrence, of Groton, though his subsequent practice was more in drawing up papers and settling estates than in attendance at courts. His name is now identified with the town as its historian. During his term of office as postmaster the revenue rose from fifty dollars to one hundred and ten dollars a quarter. He held the position nearly thirteen years, to the entire satisfaction of the public; but for political her-

esy he was removed on January 15, 1839, when Henry Woods was appointed his successor.

Mr. Woods held the office until his death, which occurred on January 12, 1841; and he was followed by the Hon. George S. Boutwell, since the Governor of the Commonwealth and a member of the United States Senate. During the administration of Mr. Woods and Mr. Boutwell the office was kept in the brick store, opposite to the present High School.

Upon the change in the administration of the National Government, Mr. Butler was reinstated in office on April 15, 1841. He continued to hold the position until December 21, 1846, when he was again removed for political reasons. Mr. Butler was a most obliging man, and his removal was received by the public with general regret. During his two terms he filled the office for more than eighteen years, a longer period than has fallen to the lot of any other postmaster of the town. Near the end of his service a material change was made in the rate of postage on letters; and in his History (page 251) he thus comments on it:

"The experiment of a cheap rate was put upon trial. From May 14, 1841, to December 31, 1844, the net revenue averaged one hundred and twenty-four dollars and seventy-one cents per quarter. Under the new law, for the first year and a half, the revenue has been one hundred and four dollars and seventy-seven cents per quarter. Had the former rates remained, the natural increase of business should have raised it to one hundred and fifty dollars per quarter. The department, which for some years before had fallen short of supporting itself, now became a heavy charge upon the treasury. Whether the present rates will eventually raise a sufficient revenue to meet the expenditures, remains to be seen. The greatest difficulty to be overcome is evasion of the post-office laws and fraud upon the department."

Like many other persons of that period, Mr. Butler

did not appreciate the fact that the best way to prevent evasions of the law is to reduce the rates of postage so low that it will not pay to run the risk of fraud.

Captain Welcome Lothrop succeeded Mr. Butler as postmaster, and during his administration the office was kept in Liberty Hall. Captain Lothrop was a native of Easton, Massachusetts, and a land surveyor of some repute in this neighborhood. Artemas Wood followed him by appointment on February 22, 1849; but he never entered upon the duties of his office. He was succeeded by George Henry Brown, who had published *The Spirit of the Times*, a political newspaper, during the Presidential canvass of 1848, and in this way had become somewhat prominent as a local politician. Mr. Brown was appointed on May 4, 1849; and during his term the office was kept in an L of his dwelling, situated nearly opposite to the Orthodox meeting-house. He was afterward the postmaster of Ayer. Mr. Brown was followed by Theodore Andruss, a native of Orford, New Hampshire, who was appointed on April 11, 1853. Mr. Andruss brought the office back to Liberty Hall, and continued to be the incumbent until April 22, 1861, when he was succeeded by George Washington Fiske. On February 13, 1867, Henry Woodcock was appointed to the position, and the office was then removed to the Town-House, where most excellent accommodations were given to the public. He was followed on June 11, 1869, by Miss Harriet Elizabeth Farnsworth, now Mrs. Marion Z. Putnam; and she in turn was succeeded on July 2, 1880, by Mrs. Christina

Dakin (Caryl) Fosdick, the widow of Samuel Woodbury Fosdick, and the present incumbent.

The office is still kept in the Town-House, and there is no reason to think that it will be removed from the spacious and commodious quarters it now occupies, for a long time to come. This public building was erected in 1859, and the first town-meeting was held within its walls, on Tuesday, November 8th, of that year. The High School was first opened in the lower hall on Monday, December 5th, and the examination of classes for admission took place three days previously, on Friday, December 2d.

A semi-daily mail was established between Boston and Groton in the year 1849, during the early part of postmaster Brown's administration; and a tri-daily mail on Monday, April 18, 1887. The post-office was made a postal-order office on Monday, August 16, 1886, and raised to the rank of a Presidential office on February 15, 1890.

Few towns in the Commonwealth can present such an array of distinguished men among their postmasters as that of Groton, including, as it does, the names of Judge Dana, Judge Richardson, Mr. Butler and Governor Boutwell. One of Judge Richardson's assistants was afterwards Postmaster-General of the United States. The Honorable Amos Kendall was studying law in his office at the time, and subsequently became Postmaster-General under Presidents Jackson and Van Buren, 1835–1840. In Mr. Kendall's "Autobiography" (Boston, 1872), edited by his son-in-law, William Stickney, it is said:

"During the residue of the year 1813 Mr. Kendall's studies [at Groton]

were much interrupted by the business of the office, which devolved on him as the oldest student. He had charge of the post-office ; received, made up and despatched the mails, delivered the letters and papers and made out the accounts. He was frequently sent on business to the neighboring towns, and employed in collecting office dues." (Page 78.)

West Groton is a small settlement that has sprung up in the western part of the town, dating back in its history to the last century. It is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Squannacook River, and in my boyhood was known as Squannacook, a much better name than the present one. It is to be regretted that so many of the old Indian words which have a local significance and smack of the region, should have been crowded out of the list of our geographical names. There is a small water-power here, and formerly a saw-mill, grist-mill and a paper-mill were in operation ; but these have now given way to a factory where leather-board is made. The Peterborough and Shirley Branch of the Fitchburg Railroad passes through the place, and some local business is transacted in the neighborhood. As a matter of course, a post-office was needed in the village, and one was established on March 19, 1850. The first person to fill the office was Adams Archibald, a native of Truro, Nova Scotia, who kept it in the railway station.

The following is a list of the postmasters, with the dates of their appointment :

Adams Archibald, March 19, 1850.
Edmund Blood, May 25, 1868.
Charles Henry Hill, July 31, 1871.
George Henry Bixby, July 11, 1878.

During the postmastership of Mr. Blood, and since

that time, the office has been kept in a store near the station, and for a long while the only one in the place.

A post-office was established at South Groton, on June 1, 1849, and the first postmaster was Andrew Boynton Gardner. The village was widely known as Groton Junction, and resulted from the intersection of several railroads. Here six passenger-trains coming from different points were due in the same station at the same time, and they all were supposed to leave as punctually.

The trains on the Fitchburg Railroad, arriving from each direction, and likewise the trains on the Worcester and Nashua Road from the north and the south, passed each other at this place. There was also a train from Lowell, on the Stony Brook Railroad, and another on the Peterborough and Shirley Branch, coming at that time from West Townsend.

A busy settlement grew up, which was incorporated as a distinct town under the name of Ayer, on February 14, 1871, so called after the late James Cook Ayer, of Lowell.

The following is a list of the postmasters, with the dates of their appointment:

Andrew Boynton Gardner, June 1, 1849.
Harvey Alpheus Woods, August 11, 1853.
George Henry Brown, December 30, 1861.
William Holmes Harlow, December 5, 1862.
George Henry Brown, January 15, 1863.
William Holmes Harlow, July 18, 1865.

The name of the post-office was changed by the Department at Washington, from South Groton to Groton Junction, on March 1, 1862; and subsequently this again was changed to Ayer, on March 22, 1871,

soon after the incorporation of the town, during the postmastership of Mr. Harlow.

Closely akin to the post-office in its functions is the service of the telegraph and the telephone, and for that reason I add the following facts:

The telegraph office was opened in the village of Groton on Saturday, March 20, 1880, mainly through the exertions of the late Charles Harrison Waters and of Francis Marion Boutwell, Esq.; and the first message was sent to Nashua. The office was established in the railway-station, where it has since remained, and the first operator was Miss Etta Augusta Shattuck.

The telephone office was opened in the village on Friday, April 29, 1881, affording communication with Boston and other places.

The Old Taverns and Stage-Coaches of Groton.—It has been said that there is nothing contrived by man which has produced so much happiness as a good tavern. Without disputing the statement, all will agree that many good times have been passed around the cheerful hearth of the old-fashioned inn.

The sites of the earliest taverns of Groton cannot easily be identified, but the names of some of the landlords are found in the records of the Middlesex Court of Quarter Sessions,—now at East Cambridge,—when they were licensed as inn-holders. At that period no great preparations were made in the small towns for the lodging of strangers, beyond obtaining the necessary license, and guests were treated like members of the family. Occasionally a farmer would

keep a tavern for a while, and thus make a market for his home products. For a long time Groton was a frontier settlement, and all beyond it was a wilderness. The travel through the place was mainly along the circumference of civilization, from one outlying town to another, and there was but little patronage for public-houses. The following list of early landlords and retailers of spirits is taken from the Court records, and the entries are made during the months of July, August and September in the respective years:

1699.—Joseph Cady.
1700.—Probably no license granted.
1701.—Joseph Cady.
1702.—Probably no license granted.
1703.—Samuel Parker, Nathan Mors.
1704.—Samuel Parker.
1705.—Samuel Parker.
1706.—Samuel Parker.
1707.—Samuel Parker.
1708.—Samuel Parker.
1709.—Probably no license granted.
1710.—Samuel Woods.
1711.—Mr. Samuel Woods.
1712.—Probably no license granted.
1713.—Nathaniel Woods.
1714.—Nathaniel Woods.
1715.—Nathaniel Woods.
1716.—Nathaniel Woods.
1717.—Nathaniel Woods, Eleazer Robbins, Eleazer Green; James Patterson, retailer.
1718.—Mr. Nathaniel Woods, Mr. Eleazer Robbins, Mr. Eleazer Green.
1719.—Mr. Eleazer Green, Mr. Nathaniel Woods.
1720.—Mr. Eleazer Green.
1721.—Mr. David Whetcomb, Mr. Eleazer Green, Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.
1722.—Mr. Eleazer Green, Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.
1723.—Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.

1724.—Mr. Jonathan Hubbard, Mr. Joseph Spaulding.

1725.—Mr. William Tarbell.

1726.—Mr. Jonathan Hubbard, Mr. William Tarbell.

1727.—Mr. Jonathan Hubbard, Mr. William Tarbell, Mr. Josiah Sautell.

1728.—Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.

1729.—Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.

1730.—Mr. Jonathan Hubbard, Mr. Josiah Sartel, Nathaniel Sartel, Esq.

1731.—Nathaniel Sartel, Esq., Mr. Jonathan Hubbard.

1732.—Nathaniel Sartel, Esq., Mr. James Parker.

1733.—Nathaniel Sartel, Esq., Mr. John Bulkley.

1734.—Nathaniel Sartell, Esq., Mr. John Bulkley, Mr. Benjamin Bancroft.

1735.—Nathaniel Sartell, Esq., Mr. Benjamin Bancroft, Mr. John Bulkley.

1736.—Nathaniel Sartel, Esq., Mr. Benjamin Bancroft, Mr. John Bulkley.

1737.—Mr. Benjamin Bancroft, Mr. John Bulkley.

1738.—John Bulkley, Captain Samuel Parker, Jonathan Sheple.

1739.—Captain Samuel Parker, John Bulkley; Jonathan Sheple, Abraham Moores, retailers.

1740.—John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, William Lawrence, Esq.

1741.—Samuel Parker, John Bulkley; William Lawrence, Esq., Abraham Moores, retailers.

1742.—Samuel Parker, John Bulkley, Abraham Moores; William Lawrence, Esq., Thomas Tarbell, retailers.

1743.—Samuel Parker, John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; William Lawrence, Esq., Thomas Tarbell, retailers.

1744.—Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., Isaac Farnsworth, Benjamin Bancroft, John Bulkley, Samuel Parker.

1745.—Isaac Green, John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; William Lawrence, Esq., Benjamin Chase, retailers.

1746.—Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., Benjamin Bancroft, John Bulkley, Samuel Parker, Amos Lawrence.

1747.—Isaac Greene, John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; John Sheple, Ezra Farnsworth, retailers.

1748.—Capt. Benjamin Bancroft, Capt. John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., Amos Lawrence.

1749.—John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; Ezra Farnsworth, retailer.

1750.—John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; Ezra Farnsworth, retailer.

1751.—John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence; Ezra Farnsworth, retailer.

1752.—John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, James Lawrence, James Colburn, Jr., William White; Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., retailer.

1753.—John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, Thomas White, Caleb Trowbridge, Jr.; Josiah Sartell, retailer.

1754.—John Bulkley, Abraham Moores, Thomas White, Caleb Trowbridge, Jr.; Josiah Sartell, John Stevens, Esq., retailers.

1755.—John Bulkely, Abraham Moores, Samuel Bowers, Thomas White; John Stevens, Esq., Jonathan Sartell, retailers.

In the Journal of the House of Representatives (page 96), December 21, 1752, is a petition of Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., of Groton, stating that:

"He lives upon a publick Road leading from *Dunstable* to *Harvard*, which is frequented by many Travelers; that the publick Houses on said Road are fifteen Miles distant from each other; that he has only Liberty to Retail, yet is often crowded with People who want necessary Refreshment, but who is not allowed to sell it to them; he therefore prays he may now obtain a Licence as an Innholder.

"Pass'd in Council, *viz.* In Council, *December* 21st, 1752. Read and *Ordered*, That the Justices of the General Sessions of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex*, be and they hereby are allowed to grant the Petitioner a License to be an Innholder, if they see Cause, at their Adjournment on Saturday, the 23d Instant, the Time for granting Licences being elapsed notwithstanding, provided the Petitioner first obtains the Approbation of the Select-Men of *Groton* for that purpose.

"Sent down for Concurrence. Read and concur'd."

The Trowbridge tavern cannot now be identified with certainty; but it is highly probable that it was the same as the Bowers inn, mentioned in the next paragraph.

The earliest tavern in Groton, of which there is any positive record or knowledge, was kept by Samuel Bowers, Jr., in the house lately and for a long time occupied by the Champney family. Mr. Bowers was born in Groton on December 21, 1711, and, according to his tombstone, died on "the Sixteenth Day of De-

cember Anno Domini 1768. Half a hour after Three of the Clock in y^e^ Afternoon, and in the Fifty Eight year of his age." He was first licensed in the year 1755, and was known in the neighborhood as "Land'urd Bowers,"—the inn-keeper of that period being generally addressed by the title of landlord. I do not know who succeeded him in his useful and important functions.

The next tavern of which I have any knowledge was the one kept by Captain Jonathan Keep, during the latter part of the Revolution. In *The Independent Chronicle* (Boston), February 15, 1781, the committee of the General Court for the sale of confiscated property in Middlesex County advertise the estate of Dr. Joseph Adams, of Townsend, to be sold "at Mr. Keeps, innholder at Groton." This tavern has now been kept as an inn during more than a century. It was originally built for a dwelling-house, and, before the Revolution, was occupied by the Reverend Samuel Dana; but since that time it has been lengthened in front and otherwise considerably enlarged. Captain Keep was followed by the brothers Isaiah and Joseph Hall, who were the landlords as early as the year 1798. They were succeeded in 1825 by Joseph Hoar, who had just sold the Emerson tavern, at the other end of the village street. Excepting the year 1836, when Moses Gill and his brother-in-law, Henry Lewis Lawrence, were the landlords, Mr. Hoar kept it until the spring of 1843, when he sold out to Thomas Treadwell Farnsworth. It was then conducted as a temperance house, at that time considered a great innovation on former customs.

After a short period it was sold to Daniel Hunt, who kept it until 1852; and he was followed by James Minot Colburn, who had it for two years. It then came into the possession of Joseph Nelson Hoar, a son of the former landlord, who took it in 1854, and in whose family it has since remained. Latterly it has been managed by three of his daughters, and was known as the Central House. For a long time it was the only tavern in the village, and for neatness and comfort could not easily be surpassed. Within a few months it has been shut up as a public-house, but it is hoped only temporarily. The following description of the inn was written by the late Mrs. Delano A. Goddard, in a letter from Groton to the *Worcester Daily Spy*, July 7, 1876, after giving an account of the celebration on the Fourth of July:

"I cannot leave Groton without one word for its 'Central House,' its only tavern; a long, low building, with a picturesque piazza its whole length, covered with a luxuriant woodbine. It is unique, and is kept by three sisters [the Misses Hoar], who receive their visitors hospitably and serve them themselves; who, in spite of all their household duties, never seem hurried, are always to be found, always courteous, always ready. They are admirable representatives of the intelligent, capable, attractive New England girls who don't know what shirking is, but who take up the life they find waiting for them, and make of it the best thing they can."

In August, 1877, a tavern, known as the Fletcher House, was opened at the southerly end of the village street. It is situated on the easterly side of the Boston Road, near the Colonel Prescott monument, and fifty years ago was owned by Dr. Farnsworth.

In a list of innholders printed near the end of Isaiah Thomas's Almanack for 1785, appears the name of Richardson, whose tavern stood on the present site

of the Baptist Church. It was originally the house owned and occupied by the Rev. Gershom Hobart, which had been considerably enlarged by additions on the north and east sides, in order to make it more suitable for its new purposes. Mine host was Captain Jephthah Richardson, who died on October 9, 1806. His father was Converse Richardson, who had previously kept a small inn on the present Elm Street, near the corner of Pleasant. It was in this Elm Street house that Timothy Bigelow, the rising young lawyer, lived when he first came to Groton. Within a few years this building has been moved away. Soon after the death of Captain Jephthah Richardson the tavern was sold to Timothy Spaulding, who carried on the business until his death, which occurred on February 19, 1808. Spaulding's widow subsequently married John Spalter, who was the landlord for a short time. About 1812 the house was rented to Dearborn Emerson, who had been a driver of a stage-coach, as well as the owner of a line. He remained in possession of it for a few years.

During the War of 1812 it was an inn of local renown; and a Lieutenant Chase had his headquarters here for awhile, when recruiting for the army. He raised a company in the neighborhood, which was ordered to Sackett's Harbor, near the foot of Lake Ontario. The men were put into uniforms as they enlisted and drilled daily. They were in the habit of marching through the village streets to the music of the spirit-stirring drum and the ear-piercing fife; and occasionally they were invited into the yard of some hospitable citizen, who would treat them to

"the cups that cheer but not inebriate," when taken in moderation. William Kemp was the drummer, and Wilder Shepley the fifer, both noted musicians in their day. Sometimes Moses Kemp, a brother, would act as fifer. William, who died on September 28, 1885, at the advanced age of ninety-six years, used to give many reminiscences of that period. He was born at Groton on May 8, 1789, and began to drum in early boyhood. His first appearance in the public service was during the year 1805, as drummer of the South Company of Groton, commanded by Luther Lawrence, Esq., afterward the mayor of Lowell. Among the men enlisted here during that campaign were Marquis D. Farnsworth, Aaron Lewis, William Shepley and John Woodward, of this town; and James Adams and his son, James, Jr., of Pepperell.

During his boyhood Mr. Kemp knew Major Daniel Simpson, the veteran drummer of Boston, whose mother was Sarah, daughter of Job and Sarah (Hartwell) Shattuck, of Groton. The major was born at Harrison, Maine, on September 29, 1790, and died in Boston on July 28, 1886. In former years he used to spend considerable time at Groton, where many a trial of skill between the two drummers has taken place.

It was about the year 1815 that Dearborn Emerson left the Richardson tavern, and moved down the street, perhaps thirty rods, where he opened another public-house on the present site of Milo H. Shattuck's store. The old tavern, in the mean time, passed into the hands of Daniel Shattuck, who kept it until the year before his death, which occurred on April 8,

1831. The business was then carried on during a short time by Samuel Clark Tenny, who has the following advertisement in *The Groton Herald*, June 12, 1830:

"OLD STAND.

"THE Subscriber would respectfully inform his friends and the public generally, that he has taken the Tavern lately occupied by Mr. DANIEL SHATTUCK, in Groton; and having thoroughly fitted up the same for the reception and accommodation of travellers, he flatters himself he shall obtain a share of their custom.

"No pains shall be spared to give satisfaction to all those who may be disposed to patronize him.

"SAMUEL C. TENNY.

"Groton, June 12, 1830."

The next landlord was Lemuel Lakin, and after him Francis Shattuck, a son of Daniel, for another brief period. About the year 1833 it was given up entirely as a public-house, and thus passed away an old landmark widely known in those times. It stood well out on the present road, the front door facing down what is now Main Street, the upper end of which then had no existence. In approaching the tavern from the south, the road went up Hollis Street and turned to the left somewhere south of the Burying-Ground. The house afterward was cut up and moved off, just before the Baptist meeting-house was built.

Dearborn Emerson married a sister of Daniel Brooks, a large owner in the line of stage-coaches running through Groton from Boston to the northward; and this family connection was of great service to him. Jonas Parker, commonly known as "Tecumseh" Parker, was now associated with Emerson in keeping the new hotel. The stage business was taken away from the Richardson tavern, and

transferred to this one. The house was enlarged, spacious barns and stables were erected, and better accommodations given to man and beast,—on too large a scale for profit, it seems, as Parker & Emerson failed shortly afterward. This was in the spring of 1819, during which year the tavern was purchased by Joseph Hoar, who kept it a little more than six years, when he sold it to Amos Alexander. This landlord, after a long time, was succeeded in turn by Isaac J. Fox, Horace Brown, William Childs, Artemas Brown, John M. Gilson, Abijah Wright and Moses Gill. It was given up as a hotel in 1854, and made into a shoe-factory, owned by Messrs. Bigelow & Randall; and finally it was burned on Wednesday evening, December 19, 1855. Mr. Gill had the house for seven years, and was the last landlord. He then opened a public-house directly opposite to the Orthodox Church, and called it The Globe, which he kept for two years. He was succeeded by Stephen Woods, who remained only one year, after which time this also was given up as a public-house.

The following advertisement in *The Groton Herald*, March 13, 1830, shows that the selectmen of the town at that time, wishing to be impartial in distributing their official patronage, used to meet equally at all the taverns in the village for the transaction of public business:

"STATED MEETINGS OF THE SELECTMEN.

"THE Selectmen of Groton will meet on the last Saturdays of each month the present municipal year, at 3 o'clock, P. M., viz.:—At *Hoar's* Tavern in March, April, May and June; at *Alexander's* in July, August, September and October; and at *Shattuck's* in November, December, January and February.

"CALEB BUTLER, *Chairman*."

Another hostelry was the Ridge Hill tavern, situated at the Ridges, three miles from the village, on the Great Road to Boston. This was built about the year 1805, and much frequented by travelers and teamsters. At this point the roads diverge and come together again in Lexington, making two routes to Boston. It was claimed by interested persons that one was considerably shorter than the other,—though the actual difference was less than a mile. In the year 1824 a guide-board was set up at the crotch of the roads, proclaiming the fact that the distance to Lexington through Concord was two miles longer than through Carlisle. Straightway the storekeepers and innholders along the Concord road published a counter-statement, that it had been measured by sworn surveyors, and the distance found to be only two hundred and thirty-six rods farther than by the other way.

The first landlord of the Ridge Hill tavern was Levi Parker, noted for his hearty hospitality. He was afterward deputy-sheriff of Middlesex County, and lived at Westford. He was followed, for a short time, by John Stevens, and then by John Hancock Loring, who conducted the house during many years, and was succeeded by his son Jefferson. After him came Henry Lewis Lawrence, who kept it during one year; he was followed by his brother-in-law, Moses Gill, who took the tavern in April, 1837, and kept it just five years. When Mr. Gill gave up the house, he was followed by one Langdon for a short time, and he in turn by Kimball Farr as the landlord, who had bought it the year previously, and who remained

in charge until 1868. During a part of the time when the place was managed by Mr. Farr, his son Augustus was associated with him. Mr. Farr sold the tavern to John Fuzzard, a native of Brighton, England, who kept it as the landlord for a while, and is still the owner of the property. He was followed by Newell M. Jewett, and he in turn by Stephen Perkins, a native of York, Maine, who took it in 1880. The building had been vacant for some years before that time. It was given up by Mr. Perkins in the spring of 1884, when it ceased to be a public-house, and was occupied again by Mr. Fuzzard as his dwelling. A fair used to be held here on the first Tuesday of every month for the sale of horses, and buyers were attracted from a long distance. At one time this property was owned by Judge Samuel Dana, who sold it to John H. Loring.

As early as the year 1798 there was a tavern about a mile from the Ridges, toward Groton. It was kept by Stephen Farrar, in the house now standing near where the brook crosses the Great Road. Afterward one Green was the landlord. The house known as the "Levi Tufts place," in the same neighborhood, was an inn during the early part of this century, conducted by Tilly Buttrick. Also about this time, or previously, the house situated south of Indian Hill, and occupied by Charles Prescott,—when the map in Mr. Butler's History was made,—was an inn. There was a tavern kept from about the year 1812 to 1818 by a Mr. Page, in Mr. Gerrish's house,—near the Unitarian Church in the village,—which was built by Martin Jennison, about 1803. Last spring the

same dwelling was newly furnished and opened as a boarding-house for transient or permanent guests, according to an advertisement in *The Groton Landmark*, May 3, 1890. There was also a tavern, near the present paper-mills of Tileston and Hollingsworth, kept for many years (1820–45) by Aaron Lewis, and after him for a short time by A. M. Veazie. It was originally the house of John Capell, who owned the saw-mill and grist-mill in the immediate neighborhood. Amos Adams had an inn near Squannacook, a hundred years ago, in a house now owned by James Kemp.

Forty years ago an attempt was made to organize a company for the purpose of carrying on a hotel in the village, and a charter was obtained from the Legislature. The stock, however, was not wholly taken up, and the project fell through. Of the corparators, Mr. Potter was the last survivor, and he died in Cincinnati, on December 2, 1884. Below is a copy of the act :—

"An Act to incorporate the Groton Hotel Company.

"*BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :*

"Sect. 1. Luther F. Potter, Nathaniel P. Smith, Simeon Ames, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the Groton Hotel Company, for the purpose of erecting, in the town of Groton, buildings necessary and convenient for a public house, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the liabilities, duties and restrictions, set forth in the forty-fourth chapter of the Revised Statutes.

"Sect. 2. Said corporation may hold such real and personal property, as may be necessary and convenient for the purposes aforesaid, not exceeding in amount twenty thousand dollars : *provided*, that no shares in the capital stock of said corporation shall be issued for a less sum or amount, to be actually paid in on each, than the par value of the shares which shall be first issued. And if any ardent spirits, or intoxicating

drinks of any kind whatever, shall be sold by said company, or by their agents, lessees, or persons in their employ, contrary to law, in any of said buildings, then this act shall be void." [*Approved by the Governor, May* 2, 1850.]

In the spring of 1852 a charter was given to Benjamin Webb, Daniel D. R. Bowker, and their associates, for the purpose of forming a corporation to carry on a hotel at the Massapoag Springs, in the eastern part of this town; but the project fell through. It was to be called the Massapoag Spring Hotel, and its capital stock was limited to $30,000. The act was approved by the Governor on May 18, 1852; and it contained similar conditions to those mentioned above in regard to the sale of liquors. In the spring of 1859 an act was passed by the Legislature, and approved by the Governor on April 1st, incorporating Abel Prescott, Harvey A. Woods, Levi W. Woods, Stephen Roberts, and Levi W. Phelps, their associates and successors, under the name of the Groton Junction Hotel Company, for the purpose of erecting a hotel at Groton Junction, now known as Ayer. The capital of the company was limited to $15,000, but the stock was never taken. These enterprises are now nearly forgotten, though the mention of them may revive the recollections of elderly people.

The Groton Stage-Coaches.—During the first half of the present century Groton had one characteristic mark, closely connected with the old taverns, which it no longer possesses. It was a radiating centre for different lines of stage-coaches, until this mode of travel was superseded by the swifter one of the railroad. Wayfarers from the surrounding towns off the line of travel came hither daily in private

vehicles to engage their seats and take their passage. During many years the stage-coaches were a distinctive feature of the place; and their coming and going were watched with great interest, and created the excitement of the day. In early times the drivers, as they approached the village, would blow a bugle in order to give notice of their arrival; and this blast was the signal at the taverns to put the food on the table. More than a generation has now passed away since these coaches were wont to be seen in the village streets. They were drawn usually by four horses, and in bad going by six. Here a change of coaches, horses and drivers was made.

The stage-driver of former times belonged to a class of men that has now disappeared from the community. His position was one of considerable responsibility. This important personage was well known along the route, and his opinions were always quoted with respect. I easily recall the familiar face of Aaron Corey, who drove the accommodation stage to Boston for so many years. He was a careful and skillful driver, and a man of most obliging disposition. He would go out of his way to bear a message or leave a newspaper; but his specialty was to look after women and children committed to his charge. He carried also packages and parcels, and largely what to-day is intrusted to the express. I recall, too, with pleasure Horace George, another driver, popular with all the boys, because in sleighing time he would let us ride on the rack behind, and even slacken the speed of his horses so as to allow us to catch hold of the straps. In youthful dialect, the practice was called "ketching on behind."

Some people now remember the scenes of life and activity that used to be witnessed in the town on the arrival and departure of the stages. Some remember, too, the loud snap of the whip which gave increased speed to the horses, as they dashed up in approved style to the stopping-place, where the loungers were collected to see the travelers, and listen to the gossip which fell from their lips. There were no telegraphs then, and but few railroads in the country. The papers did not gather the news so eagerly nor spread it abroad as promptly as they do now; and items of intelligence were carried largely by word of mouth.

The earliest line of stage-coaches between Boston and Groton was the one mentioned in the *Columbian Centinel*, April 6, 1793. The advertisement is headed "New Line of Stages," and gives notice that—

"A Stage-Carriage drives from *Robbins'* Tavern, at Charles-River Bridge, on Monday and Friday, in each week, and passing through *Concord* and *Groton*, arrives at *Wyman's* tavern in *Ashley* [Ashby] in the evenings of the same days; and after exchanging passengers there with the Stage Carriage from *Walpole*, it returns on Tuesdays and Saturdays, by the same route to *Robbins's*.

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The *Charlestown* Carriage drives also from *Robbins'* on Wednesday in each week, and passing through *Concord* arrives at *Richardson's* tavern, in *Groton*, on the evening of the same day, and from thence returns on Thursday to *Robbins'*.

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"Another Carriage drives from *Richardson's* tavern in *Groton*, on Monday in each week, at six o'clock in the morning, and passing by *Richardson's* tavern in *Concord*, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, arrives at *Charlestown* at three o'clock in the afternoon. From *Charlestown* it drives on Tuesday and Thursday in each week, at three o'clock in the afternoon and returns back as far as *Richardson's* tavern in *Concord*—and from that place it starts at 8 o'clock in the mornings, of Wednesday and

Friday, and runs again to *Charlestown*. From there it moves at six o'clock on Saturday morning, and returns to *Richardson's* tavern in *Groton*, in the evening of the same day."

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It was probably one of these "Carriages" to which allusion is made in Mr. Winthrop's "Memoir of the Honorable Nathan Appleton," as follows:

"At early dusk on some October or November evening, in the year 1794, a fresh, vigorous, bright-eyed lad, just turned of fifteen, might have been seen alighting from a stage-coach near Quaker Lane,[1] as it was then called, in the old town of Boston. He had been two days on the road from his home in the town of New Ipswich, in the State of New Hampshire. On the last of the two days, the stage-coach had brought him all the way from Groton in Massachusetts; starting for that purpose early in the morning, stopping at Concord for the passengers to dine, trundling them through Charlestown about the time the evening lamps were lighted, and finishing the whole distance of rather more than thirty miles in season for supper. For his first day's journey, there had been no such eligible and expeditious conveyance. The Boston stage-coach, in those days, went no farther than Groton in that direction. His father's farm-horse, or perhaps that of one of the neighbors, had served his turn for the first six or seven miles; his little brother of ten years old having followed him as far as Townsend, to ride the horse home again. But from there he had trudged along to Groton on foot, with a bundle-handkerchief in his hand, which contained all the wearing apparel he had, except what was on his back." —*Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, v. 249, 250.

It has been said that the first public conveyance between Boston and Groton was a covered wagon, hung on chains for thoroughbraces; but this was probably subsequent to the time of the advertisement. It was owned and driven by Lemuel Lakin, but after a few years the owner sold out to Dearborn Emerson.

The following advertisement from the *Columbian*

[1] Now Congress Street.

Centinel, June 25, 1800, will give a notion of what an undertaking a trip to Boston was at the beginning of the century:

"GROTON STAGE.

"The subscriber respectfully informs the public that he drives the Stage from *Boston* to *Groton*, running through *Lexington*, *Concord*, and *Littleton*, to *Groton*: Starts from *Boston* every *Wednesday* morning, at 5 o'clock, and arrives at *Groton* the same day; Starts from *Groton* every *Monday* morning, at 7 o'clock, and arrives at *Boston* the same day at 4 o'clock. Passage through, 2 dols. per mile, 4*d*.

"DANBORN EMERSON.

"Seats taken at Mr. SILAS DUTTON's in *Royal Exchange Lane*. Newspapers supplied on the road, and every attention paid to conveyances."

The given-name of Emerson was Dearborn, and not "Danborn," which is a misprint. Two years later he was running a stage-coach from Groton to New Ipswich, New Hampshire; and on the first return trip he brought three passengers,—according to the "History of New Ipswich" (page 129). Emerson was a noted driver in his day; and he is mentioned with pleasant recollections by the Honorable Abbott Lawrence, in an after-dinner speech at the Jubilee of Lawrence Academy, on July 12, 1854, as appears from the published account of the celebration. Subsequently he was the landlord of one of the local taverns.

It is advertised in *The Massachusetts Register*, for the year 1802, that the—

"GROTON Stage sets off from J. and S. Wheelock's [Indian Queen Inn], No. 37, Marlboro'-Street [now a part of Washington Street, Boston], every Wednesday at 4 o'clock in the morning, and arrives at Groton at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, same day; leaves Groton every Monday at 4 o'clock in the morning, and arrives in Boston at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, same day." (Pages 19, 20.)

It seems from this notice that it took three hours longer to make the trip down to Boston than up to Groton,—of which the explanation is not clear. In the *Register* for 1803, a semi-weekly line is advertised, and the same length of time is given for making the trip each way as is mentioned in the *Register* of the preceding year.

About the year 1807 there was a tri-weekly line of coaches to Boston, and as early as 1820 a daily line, which connected at Groton with others extending into New Hampshire and Vermont. Soon after this time there were two lines to Boston, running in opposition to each other,—one known as the Union and Accommodation Line, and the other as the Telegraph and Despatch.

One of the drivers for the Telegraph and Despatch Line was Phineas Harrington, popularly known along the road as "Phin" Harrington. He had orders to take but eight passengers in his coach, and the trip was made with remarkable speed for that period. "Phin" was a man of small size; and the story used to be told of him that, on cold and stormy nights, he would get inside of one of the lamps fixed to the box, in order to warm his feet by the lighted wick! He passed almost his whole life as a stage-man, and it is said that he drove for nearly forty years. He could handle the reins of six horses with more skill than any other driver in town. Mr. Harrington died at Dracut, on May 23, 1870, aged eighty years, two months and nine days.

William Shepard & Co. advertise in *The Groton Herald*, April 10, 1830, their accommodation stage.

"Good Teams and Coaches with careful and obliging drivers will be provided by the subscribers." Books were kept in Boston at A. M. Brigham's, No. 42 Hanover Street, and in Groton at the taverns of Amos Alexander and Joseph Hoar. The fare was one dollar, and the coach went three times a week.

About this time George Flint had a line to Nashua, and John Holt another to Fitchburg. They advertise together in the *Herald*, May 1, 1830, that "no pains shall be spared to accommodate those who shall favor them with their custom, and all business intrusted to their care will be faithfully attended to." The first stage-coach from this town to Lowell began to run about the year 1829, and John Austin was the driver. An opposition line was established soon afterward, and kept up during a short time, until a compromise was made between the two lines. Later, John Russ was the owner and driver of the line to Lowell, and still later, John M. Maynard the owner. Near this period there was a coach running to Worcester, and previously one to Amherst, New Hampshire.

Fifty years ago General Thomas Adams Staples was a well-known stage proprietor. He was a man of large frame and fine proportions, and is still remembered by many residents of the town. He was born in Boston on July 20, 1804, and died at Machias, Maine, on November 13, 1880.

The following is a list of some of the old drivers, who were well-known along their respective routes. It is arranged in no particular order and is by no means complete; and the dates against a few of the

names are only approximations to the time when each one sat on the box.

Lemuel Lakin was among the earliest; and he was followed by Dearborn Emerson. Daniel Brooks drove to Boston during the period of the last war with England, and probably later.

Aaron Corey drove the accommodation stage to Boston, through Carlisle, Bedford and Lexington, for a long time, and he had previously driven the mail-coach. He was succeeded by his son, Calvin, the driver for a few years, until the line was given up in 1850. Mr. Corey, the father, was one of the veterans, having held the reins during thirty-two years; he died March 15, 1857, at the age of seventy-three.

Isaac Bullard (1817–30), William Smart (1825–30), George Hunt, Jonathan Buttrick, Obadiah Kendall, Albert Hayden, Charles Briggs, Levi Robbins, James Lord, Frank Brown, Silas Burgess, Augustus Adams, William Dana, Horace Brown, Levi Wheeler, Timothy Underwood, ——— Bacon, Horace George (1838–45), Leonard Williams Cushing (1842–45) and Joseph Stewart,—these drove to Boston. After the stages were taken off, "Joe" Stewart was the driver of the passenger-coach from the village to the station on the Fitchburg Railroad, which ran to connect with the three daily trains for Boston. The station was three miles away, and now within the limits of Ayer.

Among the drivers to Keene, New Hampshire, were Kimball Danforth (1817–40), Ira Brown, Oliver Scales, Amos Nicholas, Otis Bardwell, Abel Marshall, the brothers Ira and Hiram Hodgkins, George Brown, Houghton Lawrence, Palmer Thomas, Ira Green,

Barney Pike, William Johnson, Walter Carleton and John Carleton. There were two stage routes to Keene, both going as far as West Townsend in common, and then separating, one passing through New Ipswich and Jaffrey, a northerly route, while the other went through Ashby, Rindge and Fitzwilliam, a southerly one.

Anson Johnson and Beriah Curtis drove to Worcester; Addison Parker, Henry Lewis Lawrence, Stephen Corbin, John Webber, and his son Ward, drove to Lowell; the brothers Abiel and Nathan Fawcett, Wilder Proctor and Abel Hamilton Fuller, to Nashua.

Micah Ball, who came from Leominster about the year 1824, drove to Amherst, New Hampshire, and after him Benjamin Lewis, who continued to drive as long as he lived, and at his death the line was given up. The route lay through Pepperell, Hollis and Milford.

The forerunner of this Amherst stage was a one-horse vehicle, which used to go over the road each way two or three times a week, and carry the mail. It began to run about the year 1820, and took passengers as occasion required.

Other reins-men were John Chase, Joel Shattuck, William Shattuck, Moses Titus, Frank Shattuck, David Coburn, —— Chickering, Thomas Emory and William Kemp, Jr.

The sad recollection of an accident at Littleton, resulting in the death of Silas Bullard, is occasionally revived by some of the older people. It occurred on February 3, 1835, and was caused by the upsetting of

the Groton coach, driven by Samuel Stone, and at the time just descending the hill between Littleton Common and Nagog Pond, then known as Kimball's Hill. Mr. Bullard was one of the owners of the line, and a brother of Isaac, the veteran driver. The *Columbian Centinel,* February 5, 1835, contains the following account of the affair:

"*From Briggs's News Room Bulletin.*"

"On Tuesday afternoon [February 3], as the Groton and Keene mail-stage was returning to this city, in a narrow pass of the road in Littleton, one of the fore wheels of the stage came in contact with the hind wheel of a wagon, which suddenly overturned the stage.—There were eleven passengers in the vehicle at the time, who, with the exception of Mr. Silas Bullard, of this city, and Mr. Washington Shepley, of Groton, escaped uninjured. Mr. Bullard was seated with the driver at the time of the accident, and was thrown, with great violence, to the ground, the stage falling immediately upon him. His collar-bone and two of his ribs were broken, shoulder blade dislocated, and otherwise injured. He was conveyed to a private dwelling, where he has the best medical aid, but his recovery is very doubtful. Mr. Shepley's injuries were of an internal nature, but not such as to prevent his immediate return to Groton. A passenger states that no blame can be attached to the driver."

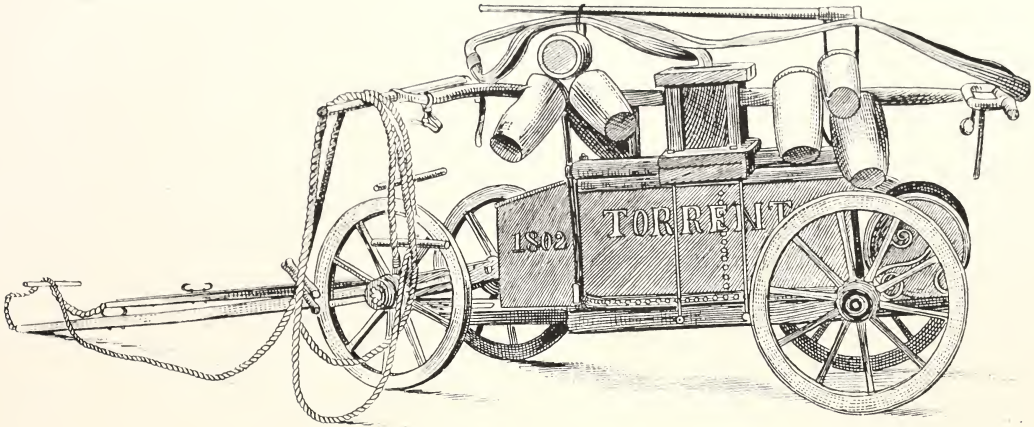
Mr. Bullard died on February 5th, and the *Centinel* of the next day pays a worthy tribute to his character.

Besides the stage-coaches, the carrier-wagons added to the business of Groton, and helped largely to support the taverns. The town was situated on one of the main thoroughfares leading from Boston to the northern country, comprising an important part of New Hampshire and Vermont, and extending into Canada. This road was traversed by a great number of wagons, drawn by four or six horses, carrying to the city the various products of the country, such as

grain, pork, butter, cheese, eggs, venison, hides; and returning with goods found in the city, such as molasses, sugar, New England rum, coffee, tea, nails, iron, cloths, and the innumerable articles found in the country stores, to be distributed among the towns above here. In some seasons it was no uncommon sight to see forty such wagons passing through the village in one day.

In addition to these were many smaller vehicles, drawn by one or two horses, to say nothing of the private carriages of individuals who were traveling for business or pleasure.

The Groton Fire Department.—The first fire-engine in Groton was made in the year 1802, by Loammi Baldwin, Jr., then a law-student in the office of the Honorable Timothy Bigelow, but who afterward became a civil engineer. He was a son of Loammi and Mary (Fowle) Baldwin, and born at Woburn on May 16, 1780; and after his graduation at Harvard College, in the class of 1800, he came to Groton in order to study the profession of law. Like many others he does not seem to have found out at the start his proper calling, as his tastes were naturally for mechanical science and the kindred arts. While following his studies here, a house, situated just south of the academy grounds, was burned down in the winter-time and there was no fire-engine to stop it. The neighbors had to fight the flames as best they could, with snow as well as water. By this incident he became so impressed with the need of an engine in Groton, that with his own hands he constructed the first one the town ever had. This identical machine,



FIRE ENGINE "TORRENT," 1802.

known for a long time as Torrent, No. 1, is still serviceable after a use of more than eighty-eight years, and will throw a stream of water over the highest roof in the town. It was made in Jonathan Loring's shop, then opposite to Mr. Boynton's blacksmith-shop, where the ironwork was done. The tub is of copper, and bears the date "1802." Mr. Baldwin, soon after this time, gave up the practice of law, and became distinguished in his new profession.

The following description of the engine is found in *The Firemen's Standard* (Boston) for April, 1884:

"The old 'machine' has a quaint appearance with its copper tub on which is inscribed its name, TORRENT, No. 1, and its ancient tool box which bears the date of its birth, 1802. The said tub is three feet six inches long, two feet two inches wide, and twenty-two inches deep. On its bottom rests an oak plank in which are set the valves and in which stand the brass cylinders and air chamber, the former of which being each five inches in diameter and sixteen inches high. A gooseneck on the top of the air chamber serves as the outlet for the water and a reel is attached to the hind part of the tub capable of carrying one hundred feet of two-inch hose, the first supply of which was made at the harness shop and sewed with waxed thread" (page 4).

Among the active members of Torrent Company, nearly fifty years ago, was Elijah Tracy, a deaf-mute, who attended the stated meetings, and turned out at the fires, with as much regularity as his more favored comrades.

At two different times within sixteen years, Torrent, No. 1, has done most excellent service in putting out fires, and it is the testimony of all acquainted with the facts, that on each of these occasions it prevented a serious conflagration. Notably this was so at a fire which took place early on Sunday morning, October 26, 1884, when a dwelling-house, owned by Andrew

Robbins, was burned down. At this time Mr. Dix's buildings, in very close proximity, were in great danger, but they were saved through the efforts of the Fire Department and the use of the old engine, which was worked to good advantage in narrow quarters, where the other engine could not be taken. The other occasion was when Walter Shattuck's store was burned down on November 17, 1874; and largely by means of this engine the Congregational meeting-house was saved from destruction.

Torrent, No. 1, until recently, was housed at the end of a row of horse-sheds, near the First Parish meeting-house, but in the year 1885 it was transferred to West Groton, for the protection of that part of the town. It was there placed in the charge of a volunteer company of young men; and on April 5, 1886, the town voted to authorize the Board of Engineers to form a permanent company in that village, which was accordingly done, with the volunteer association as a nucleus. The engine has been re-named, and is now known as the Squannacook. An engine-house, next to the new church on Groton Street, has been built, which was formally opened with appropriate ceremonies, on the evening of December 30, 1887. In the upper story is a hall for public meetings, where, on January 6, 1888, the company gave a ball. A pamphlet was printed (Ayer, 1887, 12mo, pp. 8), entitled "Constitution and By-Laws of Squannacook Engine Co., No. 2, West Groton, Mass.," which sets forth the rules of their government.

The Union Engine Company was organized in the spring of 1830, and the immediate occasion of its for-

mation was the series of incendiary fires that occurred during the year 1829. Presumably the name of the engine company was taken from the Union Congregational Church in the immediate neighborhood; and the engine was housed at the easterly end of the horse-sheds, situated on the northerly side of the meeting-house.

The following notice in the *Groton Herald*, May 8, 1830, is addressed to the subscribers for the engine:

"TAKE NOTICE.

"THE Subscribers to the New Engine are hereby requested to meet at ALEXANDER'S Hotel, MONDAY the 10th inst., at 6 o'clock, P.M. to hear the report of their Committee, chosen for the purpose of purchasing an Engine, and to transact any other business which they may think expedient.

"ELIJAH WHITON,
"T. A. STAPLES. } *Committee.*

"Groton, May 8, 1830."

A Board of Engineers of the Fire Department was originally appointed in April, 1875, by the selectmen, in accordance with Chapter 35 of the Public Statutes. Their first report was made in the spring of 1876, and printed in the Town Report of that year. A new engine, known as the Lawrence, was bought in August, 1875, and is kept in the town-house. The following is a list of the chief engineers, with the dates of their several appointments, which are made by the selectmen:

April 10, 1875, George Sumner Graves.
April 22, 1876, Charles Blood.
April 24, 1877, Charles Blood.
April 22, 1878, Charles Blood.
April 23, 1879, Charles Blood.
April 17, 1880, Charles Blood.
April 20, 1881, John Gilson.

April 21, 1882, John Gilson.
March 20, 1883, John Gilson.
March 29, 1884, George Sumner Graves.
March 18, 1885, George Sumner Graves.
March 15, 1886, Charles Woolley.
March 26, 1887, Charles Woolley.
April 2, 1888, Charles Woolley.
April 1, 1889, Charles Woolley.
April 1, 1890, Charles Woolley.

Groton Fire Club.—The Groton Fire Club was formed during the winter of 1815; and the immediate occasion of its organization was the burning of John Wethered's dwelling on Wednesday evening, February 1, 1815. This house stood at the lower end of Main Street, and some years previously had been owned and occupied by Dr. Oliver Prescott, Senior. Mr. Wethered was from Wilmington, Delaware, and came to Groton from that State. According to tradition the dwelling was set on fire by a negro in his employ, who had been a slave at the South.

On November 7, 1814, Mr. Wethered bought the place of Dr. Oliver Prescott, Jr.; and three months later the house was burned, as has been stated. On April 29, 1816, Mr. Wethered sold it to Robert C. Ludlow, of Boston, a purser in the United States Navy, who, at this time, in connection with Commodore Bainbridge and Charles W. Green, was interested in the ownership of the Lakin farm, where they were then raising sheep. On September 25, 1817, Purser Ludlow sold it to Joshua Nash, who ten years later became the father-in-law of the late Bradford Russell, Esq., of Groton.

The present house on the same site was built about the year 1826 by Miss Susan Prescott, afterward Mrs.

John Wright, for the accommodation of her school for girls, a famous institution more than sixty years ago. After Mrs. Wright's occupation of the place, it passed into the hands of Dr. Amos Farnsworth, and since that time there have been several owners. The house is now kept as a tavern.

The first meeting of the Fire Club was held on February 4, 1815, when the Honorable James Prescott was chosen president of the association, and Caleb Butler, Esq., secretary. The club used to meet annually, for the choice of officers, at one of the public-houses in the village, when a supper was served; and sometimes on such occasions members of one of the engine companies would be invited to join in the festivities. Each member of the Fire Club was required to provide two leather buckets and a fire-bag, which were to be always ready for use; and a failure to take them to a fire was met with a fine. Among some of the descendants of the early members these articles are now treasured as heirlooms.

On March 1, 1875, the town voted to adopt Chapter XXIV., Sections 23–31, of the General Statutes of the Commonwealth, by which action the need of a private organization was largely superseded. The last meeting of the Fire Club, according to the records, was held in November, 1872, no day of the month given. The following preamble, with a list of the original members, is taken from the first two pages of the record-book:

"The undersigned, Inhabitants of Groton warned by the recent conflagration in this village [1] and feeling one common interest and duty to be

[1] The dwelling-house of Mr. John Wethered was entirely consumed by fire on the evening of the 1st day of February, A.D. 1815.

constantly in readiness to act with promptitude and effect on such distressing emergencies, agree to form and procure immediately to organize a society for that purpose, to be called, 'Groton Fire Club,' and do pledge ourselves to comply with and conform to all such rules and regulations, as the Society may at any time adopt to promote that end.

"Dated the fourth day of February, A.D. 1815.

"James Prescott	Luther Lawrence
Sam[l] Lawrance	James Brazer
James Lewis	Amos Farnsworth
Abr. Moore	W[m] Bancroft
Walter Dickson	Caleb Butler
Alpheus Richardson	Amos Lawrence
David Fletcher	Aaron Lewis
Benjamin Moors	Joseph Mansfield
Thomas T. Cunningham	Asa Tarbell
John Rockwood	Aaron Lewis 2[d]
William Farnsworth	Asa Graves
James Ridgeway	Abel Farnsworth
W[m] Livermore	Ezra Farnsworth
George Brigham	Jon[a] Loring
Daniel Eaton	Asa Lawrence, Jr.
Joseph F. Hall	Luther Woods
Josiah Billings	John Stebbens
Thos. C. Gardner in behalf of my father [Major Thomas Gardner.]	Sam[l] Dana
	W[m] Childs
	Sam[l] Farnsworth
Levi Wait	Eliphal[t] Wheeler
Aaron Bancroft	Stuart J. Park"
Samson Woods	

On May 6, 1872, the town voted to build five reservoirs, which should hold 4000 gallons each. They were to be so situated as to give protection to the greatest number of houses in the village, with due regard to a sufficient supply of water. The reservoirs were placed, respectively, near the three meeting-houses, the Town-House, and the High School; and they are kept full by the water which runs from the roofs of these several buildings. After that vote, a few years later, another reservoir was placed in Court Street.

STARCH-FACTORY, PAPER-MILLS, ETC.—In the spring of 1832 the following act was passed by the General Court of Massachusetts; and under the authority of the enactment a company was organized at Groton for the manufacture of starch.

A mill was built for the purpose on the Groton side of the Squannacook River, three-quarters of a mile above the village of West Groton, but the undertaking did not prove to be a success. It stood on the site of the present paper-mill in that locality; and the place is shown on Mr. Butler's Map of Groton. It was expected that this new industry in the town would help the farmers of the neighborhood by encouraging the cultivation of potatoes, which were to be used in making the article; but the scheme was a failure.

"CHAP. CXXVII.

"An Act to incorporate the Dana Manufacturing Company."

"SEC. 1. BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That Oliver Sheple, Samuel Dana, Samuel Dana, Jr., Oliver Sheple, Jr., James Dana, and Washington Sheple, their associates and assigns be, and they hereby are constituted a corporation and made a body politic, by the name and style of the Dana Manufacturing Company, for the purpose of manufacturing cotton and woollen goods, iron wares, and starch from any materials, in the respective towns of Groton and Shirley in the county of Middlesex, and for this purpose shall have all the powers and privileges, and be subject to all the duties and requirements contained in an act passed the twenty-third day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty, entitled 'an act defining the general powers and duties of manufacturing corporations.'

"SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the said corporation may take and hold such real estate, not exceeding in value the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, and such personal estate not exceeding in value two hundred thousand dollars, as may be suitable and convenient for carrying on the business aforesaid."

[Approved by the Governor, March 13, 1832.]

The building was subsequently used as a paper-mill, and burned many years ago, probably during the summer of 1846. Soon afterward another mill was erected on the same site, which was bought on October 22, 1852, by Lyman Hollingsworth of Jephthah Richardson Hartwell. The plant was sold in 1881 by Mr. Hollingsworth to Messrs. Hollingsworth and Vose, of Boston, who still own it. The senior partner of this firm is a nephew of the former owner. The product of the mill is a Manilla paper of high grade, of which about three tons are made daily. On August 7, 1889, I visited the mill when they were making a paper, which is sent to England in boxes, for the manufacture of sand-paper, and very likely to be returned here in that form. In the stock-houses there were two hundred tons of old cordage, more or less, ready to be ground up and used in connection with "wood pulp," which enters largely into the composition of the article. Last year a new dam, a solid granite structure in place of the original one, was built; though, in times of low water, steam-power is required to turn the machinery.

The direct road from the village of West Groton to the paper-mill—perhaps three quarters of a mile in length—was laid out by the county commissioners on April 13, 1838. An attempt was previously made by interested persons, in the spring of 1832, to have the same piece of highway built, but it did not meet with success, as it was then adjudged by the commissioners to be "not of common convenience and necessity." Of course the road was opened in order to accommodate the business of the new factory.

The paper-mill on the Nashua River, at the Paper-Mill Village, was originally a wooden structure, and built in the year 1841 by Oliver Howe, who owned the saw-mill and grist-mill in the close proximity; and here the manufacture of Manilla paper was carried on. During more than a century there has been a dam at this place across the river, and in early times there was, also, a ford known as the Stony Fordway or Stony Wading-place. Among the Massachusetts Archives at the State House is a rough plan, made probably about the year 1740, which gives the names of the bridges, etc., in this neighborhood, at that period. It is found in the volume marked on the back "Maps and Plans" (XVI. 6), and bears the catalogue number 1482.

About the year 1846 the property, on which stood these several mills, was sold to the brothers John Mark and Lyman Hollingsworth; and on Sept. 1, 1851, Lyman sold his share to the other brother, John Mark, who rebuilt the paper-mill, making it of brick, but the building was very soon afterwards burned. The following item is taken from the *Boston Daily Journal*, Monday, June 7, 1852:

"Paper Mill Burnt. We learn that a paper-mill, dwelling-house and out-buildings adjoining, situated in Groton, and owned by Mr. J. M. Hollingsworth were totally consumed by fire on Saturday [June 5]."

The mill was at once rebuilt, and soon again in operation.

"☞J. M. Hollingsworth's extensive and costly paper mills, at Groton Junction [Paper Mill Village], are nearly ready to go into operation. Mr. H. intends to manufacture first quality book paper, employing about 35 hands."

Lowell Weekly Journal and Courier, May 20, 1853.

On March 7, 1865, Mr. Hollingsworth, just before his death, on April 6th of that year, sold the property to his brother Lyman, who himself died on April 1, 1890; and eleven years later it was burnt for the second time. The *Boston Evening Journal*, Friday, May 26, 1876, has the following account of the fire:

"MILL BURNT AT GROTON, MASS.

"The large paper mill of Lyman Hollingsworth at North [?] Groton was destroyed by fire on Thursday afternoon [May 25]. It gave employment to about fifty workmen, and was valued at $140,000. The insurance is placed in the following companies: Etna, Hartford, and Phœnix, of Hartford; Home of New York; North British and Mercantile; Springfield Fire and Marine; Fire Association of Philadelphia; Meriden Fire; Roger Williams of Providence, and Shawmut of Boston. It is divided as follows: On mill, $50,000; machinery, $24,000, and on stock; covering the probable loss, $8,000. It is not yet known how the fire occurred."

The mill was again rebuilt, this time by Lyman Hollingsworth, and the manufacture of book paper continued, now with a daily product of about five tons. On Dec. 13, 1881, the establishment was sold to Messrs. Tileston and Hollingsworth, of Boston, and in July, 1889, by them transferred to the Tileston & Hollingsworth Company, of Boston, a corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth.

At West Groton there is a leather-board mill, of which the daily product is about four tons. It employs thirty-five men, and stands on the site of a saw-mill and grist-mill, which were built as early as the year 1765, and perhaps earlier. There is also a saw-mill on the Squannacook River, near the Townsend line, giving employment to eight or ten men, where box-shooks, reels, staves, etc., are made.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF GROTON.

RIVERS.—In early times, before the original Plantation had been cut up in order to form other towns, the Nashua River flowed through the township of Groton for a distance of ten miles or more, and nearly bisected its territory; while to-day its course within the town's limits is hardly more than three miles. This river is formed by the union of two branches, known respectively as the North Branch and the South Branch, which come together at Lancaster. The former has its source in Ashburnham, near the foot of the Watatuck Mountain, and in Westminster, and passes through Fitchburg and Leominster; while the latter rises in the neighborhood of the Wachusett Mountain, at Princeton, and among the hills of Rutland and Holden, and passes through West Boylston and Clinton. Both these branches for a considerable distance above their confluence are known also as the Nashua. The stream at Groton is about one hundred feet above tide-water.

At a very early period the Nashua River was sometimes called the Penacook, and at other times the Groton River. In Thomas Noyes's survey of the grant of Major Simon Willard's farm, in the autumn of 1659, the land is described as "lying and being for the most part on the east side of Groaten Riuer." And again, at the session beginning on Sept. 6, 1676, the approval of the General Court was given to Jonathan Danforth's survey of lands laid out to William Hauthorne, "lying in the wilderness; on the North of Groaten Riuer at a place called by the Indians Wistequassuck," now within the limits of Townsend.

At a later period it was more frequently referred to as the Lancaster River; and it is likely that the stream bore different names in different towns along its course even at the same time. In the record of "The lands of Mr. Samuell Willard, which is layd out to him in the towne of Grotten," on Sept. 29, 1680, reference is made to the Nashawag River—another form of spelling.

The Squannacook River forms the divisional line with Shirley for perhaps four miles, which is the whole distance of contact with that town. This stream rises in Ashby and flows through Townsend and by West Groton, emptying into the Nashua. The name is found in the Proprietors' records as early as the spring of 1684.

PONDS.—*Baddacook Pond*—lies about two miles from the village, near the Lowell Road. It covers an area of 103 acres, and is the largest pond in the town. It is mentioned in the record of James Parker's land under the date of July 6, 1666.

Outlet: Baddacook Brook, which flows into Cow Pond.

Cady Pond—a small and deep pond, covering perhaps two acres, lying less than a mile from the village in a southeasterly direction, near the Boston Road. It was named after Nicholas Cady, one of the early settlers, who owned land in the neighborhood. This pond and Flat Pond, both very small, are the only ones in the town whose waters ultimately reach the Nashua River.

Outlet: a small unnamed brook running southwesterly into James' Brook.

Cow Pond—sometimes called Whitney's Pond, in the easterly part of the town, covering an area of seventy-one acres. Cow Pond Meadow is mentioned in the record of Ralph Reed's land before the year 1664.

Outlet: Cow Pond Brook, which flows into Massapoag Pond.

Duck Pond—near the Ridges, east of Knop's Pond, and separated from it by a ridge only—lies perhaps half a mile south of Cow Pond. It covers fifty-five acres, and has no outlet.

Flat Pond—a small sheet of water near the Throne, in the west part of the town.

Outlet: a small unnamed brook into the Squannacook River.

Half-Moon Pond—a small pond in the upper part of the meadow, which lies south of the Hillside Road.

Knop's Pond—near the Ridges, west of Duck Pond, and is of the same size as that pond, covering fifty-five acres. So called from James Knapp, or Knop, an early settler who owned land in the neighborhood.

Outlet: a brook into Cow Pond.

Long Pond—lies on the southern border of the town, partly in Groton, but mostly in Ayer, covering forty-five acres.

Outlet: a brook into Sandy Pond.

Martin's Pond—near the foot of Gibbet Hill, on its northeasterly side—covers sixteen and two-thirds acres; it was named after William Martin, an early settler. In the record of James Parker's land, on July 6, 1666, "the pond called Goodman Martin's Pond," is mentioned. The following article, found

in the warrant for the town-meeting held on September 17, 1792, seems to show that the outlet of the pond was formerly through Hog Swamp and Half-Moon Meadow into James's Brook, though there is now no other evidence to confirm this view:

"Art. 8. To see if the town will order the water running from Martin's Pond to be turned into the old Channel as it formerly used to run, through the Town, and appoint some proper person or persons to remove the obstructions and Effect the Business."

In the proceedings of the meeting, it is recorded that this article was "Past in the Negative." A measurement of the pond was lately made, when frozen over, which proves it to be much smaller than it was half a century ago.

Outlet: Martin's Pond Brook into the outlet of Knop's Pond, half-way between that pond and Cow Pond.

Massapoag Pond—on the easterly border of the town, but lies mostly in Dunstable and Tyngsborough, covering an area of fifty-six acres. It is now used as a storage basin of water by the Vale Mills Manufacturing Company, of Nashua, New Hampshire, and in dry seasons it is drawn upon for a supply.

Outlet: Salmon Brook, which empties into the Merrimack River at Nashua.

Springy Pond—a small sheet of water connected with Knop's Pond by a brook.

Wattle's Pond—three miles north of the village, on the road to East Pepperell, with no outlet. The origin of the name is unknown; but perhaps from Wattle, "a rod laid on a roof for the purpose of supporting the thatch." Many of the houses of the early settlers were thatched.

The area of the ponds, with the exception of Martin's Pond, is taken from the Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts (January, 1873), as given on pages 124 and 125.

A story is told relative to Massapoag Pond, based on tradition, which probably has no real foundation. It is said that—

"Its outlet was on the easterly side, and as it was the reservoir into which Cowpond brook poured its waters, a considerable mill-stream issued from it. The waters passed without any rapids for a considerable distance, affording no favorable site for a mill. The north end of the pond was bounded by a ridge of loose sand, rising but little above the surface of the water, and being about six rods only in width; on the opposite side of which was a descent of about forty feet. Here, then, was an eligible spot for an overshot mill. At a town-meeting held May 21, 1688, a grant was made to Samuel Adams of a small pond near Buck meadow, and leave given to drain it by a brook running into 'Tyng's cove.' At the same meeting, for the encouragement of any who would set up iron-works at Massapoag, a grant was offered of the wood on the easterly side of Unquetenassett brook. It is said that Adams, who is supposed to have accepted the grant, erected a grist-mill at the site above mentioned, conducting the water across the sand-bank to the flume of his mill. At the time of a flood about the year 1700 (the precise time is not known), a breach was made across the sand-bank, and it being very loose and moveable, the whole bank was soon torn down by the water to the depth of more than thirty feet; and consequently a sheet of water of that depth, where the pond was so deep, and where of less depth the whole water upon the surface, flowed suddenly off (all in one night), with irresistible violence. The mill, of course, was demolished, and the stones, though diligently sought for, and even the skill of the famous Moll Pitcher, of Lynn, employed in the search, have never yet been found. The bottom of the pond being uneven, fish in abundance were left in the cavities, which were easily taken, and the inhabitants of the neighboring towns, as well as of Groton, came and carried off loads of them. Where the water formerly issued from the pond, a small brook now runs in, and the outlet is, at the place of disruption, called the 'gulf.' The water finds its way into the old channel, two or three miles from the pond, in a northwesterly direction from Dunstable meeting-house."

[Butler's History of Groton, pages 246, 247].

The name of Buck Meadow, which has been in use for more than two centuries, is firmly established, and the site well known. The meadow lies near Lovewell's Pond, formerly within the limits of Groton, but now in Nashua; and Adams's mill stood undoubtedly at the outlet of this pond, where there is a small water-power. This theory would tally with the town records; and furthermore a tradition is still extant that there was once a mill in the neighborhood. Lovewell's Pond is much smaller than Massapoag, and at that time probably had no designation. It was named after Captain John Lovewell, who was killed by the Indians on May 8, 1725. The following is the entry in the records:

"May : 21. 1688. The inhabitants of Groton Granted to Samull Adams y^e^ pond that lyes neare buck medow which hath its outlet into the medow known by y^e^ name of Tyngs Couee, and the swampy land adioyeng ther to prouided y^e^ sd land do not exceed fifteen accers;

"atest; JOSIAH PARKER *Clarke*

and sd adams hath liberty to drean the s^d^ pond at y^e^ small brook that runes in to Tyng's Coue prouided sd Adames macks good all dameges that shall be don ther by"

There are now three small brooks running into Massapoag Pond on the easterly side, and their fall is too great for any one of them ever to have been the old outlet to the pond. Furthermore, it would have been impossible for any of these brooks to drain the pond (which even at the present time covers fifty-six acres) without causing too great damage for Adams to make good. There is no indication along their banks that they have been much larger streams than they are to-day. While the formation of the banks at the mouth of the pond, or the "gulf," so called, is pecu-

liar, there are no signs that the water-line was ever any higher than it is at the present time. None of the local antiquaries are able to identify Tyng's Cove, which is a name undoubtedly derived from Jonathan Tyng, one of the earliest settlers of Dunstable.

At the same town-meeting, held on May 21, 1688, the inhabitants of Groton—

"Deed then by the maior uoat grant for the incoregment of such men as will set up Ioran works at masabog pond; that thay shall haue y^e^ ues & improument of the woods and timbr y^t^ is now common one the est sid of uncuttanaset brook and so to nashua riuer and groton line est ward & south ward to good man greens' masabog medow. . . ."

I give this extract from the town records in order to show that the inhabitants at that period knew the pond by its present name; and if they had seen fit then to grant Adams any special priviiege connected with it, they would have called it "Massapoag," and would not have said "y^e^ pond that lyes neare buck medow."

Hills.—*Barralock Hill*—is mentioned in the record of Samuel Woods' lands; but I am unable to identify it. Perhaps it is the hill due north of Baddacook Pond.

Brown Loaf Hill—commonly called Brown Loaf—is a handsome, symmetrical hill standing alone, more than a mile from the village, near the Lowell road. Brown Loaf Hill Meadow is mentioned in the description of Joseph Parker's lands, December 2, 1664, which would imply that the hill was so named before that time. Brown Loaf Hill is also mentioned in the record of James Parker's lands made on July 6, 1666; and Brownloafe Playne and Brownloaf Hill are given in the record of James Fisk's lands in John Morse's

handwriting, of which the date is absent, but which was certainly made at a very early period. The height of the hill is 448 feet above mean tide on the coast line.

Chestnut Hills—the range lying northerly of Martin's Pond; so called from the abundant growth of chestnut-trees on its sides. The highest hills in the town, their greatest elevation being 544 feet.

Clay-Pit Hill—the small hill at the corner of the East Pepperell road and Break Neck.

Gibbet Hill—a noted landmark overlooking the village on its easterly side. It is mentioned in the land-grant of Sergeant James Parker, which was entered in the town records of Richard Sawtell, the first town clerk who filled the office from June, 1662, to January, 1664–65. The tradition is that the hill was so called from the fact that once an Indian was gibbeted on its top. If this ever occurred, it must have happened before Sawtell's term of office. The town was incorporated by the General Court on May 25, 1655, but no public records are known to have been kept before June 23, 1662. Its height is 516 feet.

Horse Hill—in the eastern part of the town, near Massapoag Pond. It lies partly in Dunstable, and is covered with woods.

Indian Hill, or Hills—the range beginning near James's Brook, a mile south of the village, and running in an easterly direction on the south side of the Great Road to Boston. The height is 524 feet above mean tide.

Naumox—a low hill or ridge a short distance west of the road to East Pepperell, near the Longley mon-

ument, and running parallel with the road. The name is also used in connection with the neighborhood.

Prospect Hill—very near Cady Pond, and east of it; perhaps 250 feet or more above the Nashua, and 503 feet above mean tide.

Ridge Hill, or The Ridges—the name of a peculiar ridge, three miles southeasterly from the village, along which the Great Road runs. It also gave the name to a tavern formerly kept in the immediate neighborhood.

Rocky Hill—there are two hills of this name, one lying northeasterly of Baddacook Pond, near the old District School-house No. VIII. (now the Trowbridge School), which is also known as the Rocky Hill School, and the other situated in the southeast part of the town, between Long Pond and the Ridges. A visit to either of these hills will show why it was so called.

Sandy Hill—a small elevation on the road to East Pepperell, below the Longley monument, near the place where the Nashua road branches off.

Shepley Hill—lies west of the East Pepperell road, near Naumox. The name is rarely heard now, though it was in use as far back as February 28, 1670,—evidently so called from the Shepley family.

Snake Hill—in the south part of the town, but lies mostly in Ayer. Rattlesnakes have been killed on it within the memory of the present generation. Its height is 497 feet.

The Throne—a high hill in the western part of the town, on the summit of which is a level field of

perhaps sixty acres, containing a small pond,—near the Townsend line. A map of Groton resembles a tea-kettle, the portion west of the Nashua River forming the spout, and the Throne comes in the spout. It is 484 feet high.

Meadows.—The early settlers of Groton, according to the town records, had many parcels of meadow allotted to them in the assignment of land. Sergeant James Parker owned in twenty different meadows, and the other settlers also were large owners. It is probable that they did not attach the same signification to the word "meadow" which now belongs to it in New England, where it means low, swampy land, without regard to the mowing. They called by this name all grass-land that was annually mown for hay, and especially that by the side of a river or brook; and this meaning of the word was and still is the common one in England, whence they brought their language. They sometimes spoke of a "swamp," meaning by it what we call a "bog;" but much of this kind of land has since been reclaimed, and is now known as "meadow." As a matter of fact, it happened that the lands which could be mown for the fodder were low lands; and it would require perhaps less than a generation to transfer the meaning of mowing lands to the low lands, which were nearly the only ones that could be mown in the early days of the Colony. This explanation will make clear the following vote of the town, passed on February 18, 1680–81:

"At the same meeting it was agreed vpon and voted that Mr Hubberd should haue all the comon which was capable to mak medow in swan

pond medow vp to the vpland for seauen acre and a halfe for to mak vp his fifteen acres of medow."

The following names of meadows are found in the town records, and in a few instances I have indicated their locality:

Accident; Angle, in the northerly part of the town; Big Spring, in the neighborhood of Hawtree Brook; Broad, immediately west of the village; Brook; Brown Loaf, east of the hill; Buck, now lying within the limits of Nashua, New Hampshire; Burnt, in the vicinity of Baddacook Pond; Cow Pond, near the pond of that name; East; Ferney, near Brown Loaf; Flaggy, to the southward of the Baddacook road, near the pond; Flax; Great Flaggy, presumably near Flaggy, and perhaps the same; Great Half-Moon, the same as Half-Moon, which lies east of the village; Little Buck, probably a part of Buck Meadow; Little Half-Moon, a part of Half-Moon, being an offshoot from it; Lodge; Long; Maple; Massapoag, evidently near Massapoag Pond; New Angle; Pine; Plain; Pretty; Providence; Quasoponagon, "on the other sid of the riuer," near the Red Bridge, through which Wrangling Brook runs; Reedy, known by this name to-day, lying north of the Reedy Meadow Road; Rock, south of Snake Hill; Sallo, perhaps Sallow, a kind of willow; Sedge; Skull, through which Unquetenassett Brook runs, near the Dunstable line; Sledge, north of Reedy Meadow, near the Sledges; South; South Brook; Spang; Spot; Spring; Spruce; Swamp; Swan Pond; and Weavers.

In the record of Daniel Pearse's land, by William

Longley, town clerk, on July 6, 1666, reference is made to the "iland lying within the meadow called Litle Halfe Moone Meadow." This land now belongs to Governor Boutwell, and there is upon it a small knoll which is always spoken of as the island, undoubtedly a survival of the expression applied to it when more or less surrounded by water.

BROOKS.—*Cold Spring Brook*—a small brook, rising in Cold Spring "on y^e^ Left hand of the high way that goe to Reedy medow." It runs across the Nashua road, the East Pepperell road, through Hazen Swamp and Libby Lobby Moat, into the Nashua River.

Cow Pond Brook—has its source in Cow Pond Meadows and Cow Pond, and empties into Massapoag Pond. Formerly there was a dam between the meadows and the pond, where there was a saw-mill; and later on the same site a paper-mill, which disappeared about thirty-five years ago.

Gift Brook—in the north part of the town, rises in Gift Meadow, crosses Chicopee Row, and empties into Unquetenassett Brook.

James's Brook—one of the longest brooks within the limits of the town. It takes its rise in Half-Moon Meadow, crosses Main Street in the village, and runs southerly and westerly for three or four miles into the Nashua River. At its mouth is the beginning of the line separating the town of Ayer from Groton. Formerly there was a tannery on the banks of the brook, near Indian Hill, known as Dix's tannery; and a mile below, on land of the late Benjamin Moors, east of the road, at one time there was a mill,—but now no traces of either are left, except some remains of the mill-

dam. The stream took its name from an Indian, who was a famous hunter and trapper in very early times. It empties into the Nashua River, nearly opposite to the mouth of the Squannacook.

Hawtree Brook—in the northerly part of the town, near Chicopee Row; after it unites with Walnut Run and two or three other small streams, it forms Unquetenassett Brook. In the early records of the town the Hawtrees are frequently spoken of, which refer to the neighborhood of this brook.

Nod Brook—rises near the Soapstone Quarry, crosses the Nod road, and runs into the Nashua River.

Reedy Meadow Brook—rises in Reedy Meadow and flows northerly, emptying into the Nashua River below East Pepperell. It is sometimes called Johnson's Brook.

Sedge Brook—a small brook from Sedge Meadow, running into Reedy Meadow Brook.

Tuity Brook—contracted from Gratuity—a very small stream which rises near the head of Farmers' Row and runs through Hazle Grove into the Nashua River below Fitch's Bridge.

Unquetenassett Brook — often called Unkety — A stream formed by the union of Walnut Run, Hawtree Brook, and one or two small tributaries, and running northerly through Skull Meadow and that part of Dunstable formerly Groton into the Nashua.

Walnut Run—a brook issuing from the sides of Chestnut Hills and uniting with Hawtree Brook and one or two other streams, forms the Unquetenassett.

Also the name of a place—perhaps it was the mouth of a stream—on the Nashua River where in olden

times there was a bridge. It stood farther up the river than Fitch's Bridge.

Wrangling Brook—in West Groton, a mile and a half in length—meanders through Quasoponagon Meadow, and then empties into the Nashua a short distance below the Red Bridge.

ROADS.—*Baddacook Pond Road*—a continuation of the Martin's Pond Road to the neighborhood of the pond.

Break Neck—the short strip of road from the East Pepperell road to Common Street, south of the soapstone quarry.

Chicopee Row—running north for three miles from the Cemetery. The district to which it leads is known as Chicopee, a name given long ago.

Farmers' Row– applied to the road on the height of land west of the village. It begins at the west end of Pleasant Street, and runs in a southerly direction for two miles, passing by the Groton School.

Great Road—one of the principal thoroughfares between Boston and parts of New Hampshire and Vermont. The section of the road through the village is known as Main Street.

Hillside Road—the highway along the southern slope of the Indian Hills.

Love Lane—the highway from the Lowell Road, near the First Parish Meeting-house, to the Great Road near Cady Pond.

Martin's Pond Road—the highway from the site of the first meeting-house to the neighborhood of the pond, where it becomes the Baddacook Pond Road.

Reedy Meadow Road—from the Nashua road to Chicopee Row, immediately south of Reedy Meadow.

Squash Path—through the woods from the East Pepperell road to the Nashua road—a short distance beyond Cold Spring Brook.

Tuity Road—a contraction of Gratuity Road—the road leading to Fitch's Bridge from the Great Road near the railroad bridge, half a mile north of the village. The name had its origin in the early history of the town, when grants of land were made to the inhabitants as gratuities. Tuity Brook, a very small stream, crosses this road and empties into the Nashua River, below Fitch's Bridge.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Brickyard*—on the north side of the Great Road, about a mile from the First Parish Meeting-house. It was much used during the last century; and probably was the place where the bricks were made for the parsonage, as mentioned in the town-records, June 20, 1706. Only a few traces of it are now left, though a clump of elms by the roadside is a good guide to the site.

Brown Loaf Plain—to the west of Brown Loaf.

Community—the name of a district or neighborhood beyond the Groton School, where many of the residents formerly held similar religious views. It had its origin nearly fifty years ago, when the Second Adventists, or "Millerites," gave up their regular services in the village.

Dead River—the old course of the Nashua River, around the island which was formed by the cutting through of the "neck."

Deep Soil—in the neighborhood of the race-course, in Hazle Grove; so-called on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle.

Fitch's Bridge—over the Nashua River, a mile and a quarter below the Red Bridge.

General Field—often mentioned in the early town records, refers to land owned in severalty by the proprietors of Groton, who kept it as one field, for reasons not now understood. It was upland, and lay in the southwest part of the town, near the river. It appears to have been allotted to the proprietors, according to the number of acre-rights which each one owned. Perhaps it was land already cleared when the first settlers came.

The Gift—a parcel of land near Reedy Meadow, in the north part of the town.

The Hawtrees—mentioned several times in the early records, and referring, doubtless, to some native shrubs or trees; for instance, Zachery Sawtell had meadow-land "Neare the hawtrees" confirmed to him on November 18, 1670. It evidently became the name of a limited district or neighborhood in the north part of the town, and from it undoubtedly Hawtree Brook was named. The late Professor Asa Gray, the distinguished botanist, wrote me that there are three or four species of wild hawthorn in Massachusetts. He says: "One of the forms of the Black or Pear Thorn (*Crataegus tomentosa*) would be the likeliest for Groton, of perhaps the Cockspur Thorn. The former has the more edible fruit, and would be sure to attract attention."

Hazen Swamp—near the mouth of Cold Spring Brook.

Hazle Grove—the neighborhood of the east bank of the Nashua River above Fitch's Bridge.

Hicks's Hole—a small piece of meadow, lying north of Reedy Meadow.

High Plain—on the north side of the Baddacook road, in the neighborhood of the pond. It lies in the angle of the roads, west of the house of John Johnson, Jr., as laid down on the map of Groton, made from a survey during the years 1828 and 1829.

Hog Swamp—lying between the westerly side of Martin's Pond and Martin's Pond Road. Governor Boutwell's private way to the Chestnut Hills passes through it.

Hoyt's Wharf—the name of a place on Cow Pond Brook where one Hoyt formerly kept his boat. It was near the house of Samuel Hazen,—as laid down on the map of Groton, made from a survey during the years 1828 and 1829,—nearly a mile north of Cow Pond.

The Island—a small, though prominent, hill in the meadow south of Hillside Road; undoubtedly once surrounded by water.

Jamaica—the name of a small patch of meadow behind the hills on the west side of Chicopee Row.

Libby Lobby Moat—below the Ox Bow, opening into the Nashua River. This word is probably another form of Loblolly, in use at the South, and denoting wet land.

Lily Moat—on the east side of the Nashua and south of the road, near the Red Bridge.

Madagascar—the name of the district where the paper-mill formerly stood on the brook, between Cow Pond and Knop's Pond.

Nod—the district lying in the neighborhood of the four corners, below the soapstone quarry. The

road from the Hollingsworth Paper-mills to this place is called the Nod Road.

Ox Bow—the bend of the Nashua River, in the northerly part of the town, below the Lawrence pasture.

Paugus Hole—in Paugus Brook, on the west side of Brown Loaf, where, it is said, the body of Paugus's descendant, who came to kill Chamberlain, was sunk, after he himself was killed.

Pine Plain—probably near the Nashua River, and perhaps on the westerly side. In December, 1673, Joseph Morse had meadow-lands on the Pine Plain, "neare the fordway."

Punch Bowl—one of several natural depressions near the Lowell road, below Brown Loaf. The name is also applied to the neighborhood.

Red Bridge—over the Nashua River, on the road to West Groton.

Sledges—the name of a meadow northeast of Reedy Meadow, mentioned in the early records, where John Lakin owned land. Mr. Butler, in his History (page 273), says that "this word seems to signify strips of meadow or parcels of low lands abounding in iron ore." Bog-iron is found in that quarter of the town, and in old times was worked by a company formed for that purpose.

Sodom—the district in the northwest part of the town, near the Townsend line. The name refers to the quality of the soil, and not to the character of the inhabitants.

Squannacook—an Indian word—the old name of West Groton,—applied to the river passing by that village.

Stony Fordway, or Wading-Place—near the site of the Hollingsworth Paper-mills, on the Nashua River, a mile and a half northwesterly of the village.

Swill Bridge—was between the homesteads of Eber Woods, Jr., and Joel Davis,—as given on Mr. Butler's map of Groton, from a survey made in the years 1828 and 1829,—a short distance west of the present railroad bridge. Originally it was a causeway, perhaps twenty rods in length, over the southerly end of Broad Meadow, though now it is a solid road.

Thomas Tarbell's Fordway—was between where the Red Bridge now stands and Fitch's Bridge, which is a mile and a quarter below.

Tobacco Pipe Plain—on both sides of the road from the Ridges to Sandy Pond, near Rocky Hill. It is mentioned in the "Bye-Laws of Groton relative to Schools; and Instruction of the School Committee, 1805," and in old deeds.

Reflection of Light.—The reflection of the electric light in Boston and the surrounding towns can be seen from certain elevations at a great distance. When the atmospheric conditions are favorable, it is distinctly visible on particular nights from Indian Hill at Groton, in the neighborhood of Major Moses Poor Palmer's house, and from other places in the town. A slight haziness in the air is needed in order to receive the reflection. The distance from Boston to Groton in a straight line is about thirty miles, though the illumination is helped by the electric systems of Newton and Waltham, which are somewhat nearer. From different points in the village of Groton the reflection of the circuits

at Nashua, Lowell, Clinton and Fitchburg is often visible, which places are twelve or thirteen miles distant as the crow flies.

The illumination of the heavens during the great fire that occurred in Boston on the night of November 9, 1872, was distinctly seen by various persons in different parts of the town.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

ABBOTT LAWRENCE.

The name of Lawrence is one of the earliest to be found among the Puritan settlers of Massachusetts. John Lawrence, the first emigrant of the name, was established in Watertown as early as 1635.

Abbott Lawrence was the fifth son of Samuel and Susanna Lawrence. He was born in Groton on the 16th day of December, 1792. He received the family name of his paternal grandmother, Abigail Abbott, daughter of Nehemiah Abbott, of Lexington. His education, begun at the district school, was completed at the academy of the town, of which his father had been a trustee for many years. He enjoyed nothing in the way of educational advantages beyond this, but he evidently improved the time and turned all that he received to the best account. In 1808 he was sent to Boston and placed as an apprentice to his elder brother, Amos Lawrence, who had been for some years established there as an importer of English goods. By steady application and fidelity he pre-

pared himself in this subordinate position for the responsibilities which were soon to come upon him as a principal. In 1814 he was admitted to partnership with his brother. The times were by no means encouraging, as we were in the midst of our war with England, and after a few months the prospect seemed so unpromising that Mr. Lawrence proposed to withdraw from the business and enter the army. He had previously been an active member of the New England Guards. He applied to the War Department for a commission, but before an answer could be received the news of peace arrived, and he abandoned all thought of a military life. He embarked in the first vessel that left Boston for England after the proclamation of peace to purchase goods for the market. "The passage was a short one. With characteristic ardor, he was the first to leap on shore, being thus, perhaps, the first American who touched his fatherland after the war was ended." He remained abroad for some time, on the occasion of this his first voyage to Europe, visiting the Continent, where he saw the allied armies immediately after the battle of Waterloo.

Messrs. A. & A. Lawrence soon engaged largely in the sale of cotton and woolen goods of domestic manufacture, and devoted all their energies to foster this great branch of the national industry. Mr. Lawrence's interest in the work of railroad construction in New England was hardly less than in the establishment and extension of the manufacturing system. He was a large subscriber to the various railroads projected for the concentration of trade in Boston, and this from a feeling of patriotism rather than the expecta-

tion of profit. Mr. Lawrence was chosen to represent Massachusetts at the Harrisburg Convention in 1827 and took a prominent part in its proceedings. In 1831 he was elected to the Common Council of Boston, but declined a re-election. In 1834 he was elected to Congress. On taking his place he was at once put on the Committee of Ways and Means. On the expiration of his term his constituents testified their sense of his services by inviting him to a public dinner. This he declined in a letter in which he touches on the great questions of the day. He declined a re-election to Congress, although the members of the opposite party gave him the remarkable assurance that, if he would consent to stand, no candidate should be brought out against him. Two years later he consented to accept a second nomination and again took his seat in the House. Shortly after his arrival he was attacked by typhus fever, so that for some time small hopes were entertained of his recovery. He resigned in the following autumn.

In the Presidential campaign of 1840, Mr. Lawrence took an active part in favor of the election of General Harrison. In September, 1842, he was president of the Whig Convention which nominated Henry Clay for President on the part of Massachusetts.

In 1842 Mr. Lawrence was appointed by the Governor one of the commissioners on the part of Massachusetts to negotiate a settlement of our northeastern boundary, which had been a source of irritation for many years between the United States and England. Quoting Mr. Prescott's language: "It is not too much to say that but for the influence exerted by

Mr. Lawrence on this occasion the treaty, if it had been arranged at all, would never have been brought into the shape which it now wears." Mr. Nathan Appleton in his memoir confirms this statement in the following words: "It is the belief of the writer, who was then in Congress, that to Mr. Lawrence more than to any other individual is due the successful accomplishment of the negotiation which resulted in the important Treaty of Washington."

In July, 1843, Mr. Lawrence, accompanied by his wife and daughter, embarked from Boston for England in the steamer "Columbia." The following day they were wrecked on Black Ledge, near Seal Island. After a week's detention on the island, they were transported to Halifax whence they proceeded on their voyage.

Mr. Lawrence's reputation had preceded him. He was received in England with marked attention, and the hospitality of many distinguished and influential people was extended to him.

In 1844 he was a delegate to the Whig National Convention and one of the electors at large for the State of Massachusetts. He was an ardent supporter of Henry Clay for the Presidency and deeply disappointed on his defeat.

In 1845 the Essex Company was organized and Mr. Lawrence was its president and the first and largest subscriber to its stock. The city of Lawrence, incorporated as a town in 1847, was named for him.

Most justly has it been said: "The broad comprehension, unwavering faith and large capacity of Abbott Lawrence should never be forgotten by dwellers in the city that bears his name."

In 1846 Mr. Lawrence addressed to the Hon. Wm. C. Rives, of Virginia, his celebrated letters on the tariff. Mr. Webster wrote to Mr. Lawrence from Washington: "Your letters to Mr. Rives have a very great circulation, as you are aware, and are highly praised by intelligent men. The second of them will form the substratum of what I propose to say (if I say anything) on the tariff subject." "These letters attracted much attention in all parts of the country and especially in Virginia, where they were re-printed and commented upon at length in the leading newspapers. So deep was the impression made in that State by them, and such a spirit of enterprise did they enkindle, that some of the leading citizens invited him to come and establish a manufacturing town at the Great Falls of the Potomac. This appeal on the part of a sister State for co-operation and leadership in the development of its industry and capital was a remarkable recognition and tribute to the ability and character of Mr. Lawrence. . . . But vast interests were at stake nearer home, and he could not allow himself to be diverted from this work by the projected enterprise on the shores of the Potomac, no matter how alluring the promise of results both to himself and to others."

Mr. Hill in his Memoir thus spoke of Mr. Lawrence: "His character, in all respects that of the pure New England type, was peculiarly so in the love and zeal which he always manifested in the cause of popular education. . . . We have an illustration of this in the letters written by him when he established the Lawrence prizes in the High and Latin Schools

of Boston, (1844–45) giving to each the sum of $2000 —using his own language—the interest to be expended in medals, books, and other prizes among those pupils who may excel in the various branches of learning which are taught in those schools." In a like spirit he aided in the endowment of the Franklin Library at Lawrence which also received a bequest of $5000 at his death.

For several years he had felt (to use his own words) "the pressing want in our community (and in the whole country) of an increased number of men educated in the practical sciences." "He was satisfied," says Mr. Prescott, "that, however liberal the endowments of that institution" (Harvard University) "for objects of liberal culture, no adequate provision had been made for instruction in science." When, therefore, the Corporation of the University announced its purpose of organizing a school of theoretical and practical science, he responded by a gift in 1847 of fifty thousand dollars. In recognition of his munificence the institution was named the Lawrence Scientific School. Soon after its establishment, Professor Agassiz was appointed to the chair of Zoology and Geology. Mr. Lawrence endowed the school with a further like sum by his will.

Mr. Lawrence was a leader in the movement to supply the city of Boston with an abundance of pure water. He attended several public meetings held to promote that object, and made speeches in support of it. One of them may be found in full in "Hill's Memoir" of him. The project met with the strongest opposition. The first act of the Legislature (passed March, 1845) authorizing the city to take water from

either Long Pond or Charles River was rejected at the polls by a large majority, but a second act, such had been the change in public opinion only eleven months later, was accepted by a still larger majority. Water was brought into the city from Long Pond in October, 1848, and Mr. Lawrence lived to see all his predictions more than verified.

In the Presidential canvass of 1848 the name of Mr. Lawrence was prominently associated for the office of Vice-President with that of General Taylor for President, and at the convention in Philadelphia he wanted but six votes of being nominated for that office. This result was owing to the peculiar and unexpected course of some of the delegates from his own State. He, however, heartily sustained the nomination of Taylor and Fillmore. Immediately after the inauguration of General Taylor, Mr. Lawrence was offered a seat in his Cabinet, but declined it; soon after he was nominated to the mission to England, which he accepted. After serving three years his private affairs obliged him to return, and in October, 1852, he resigned. No minister from the United States was ever more respected or left behind him a more enviable reputation. The Rev. John Cumming, in dedicating the American edition of his "Apocalyptic Sketches" to Mr. Lawrence, says: "I regard this as an opportunity of expressing a conviction shared and felt by the good and great of this country how much they appreciated your presence in London, as the representative of your magnificent nation, and how deeply,—I may add universally,—they regretted your departure. We never had so popular a minister from

America or one who has done so much to leave lasting and elevated impressions of his countrymen."

After his return from England, Mr. Lawrence held no public position, though he still maintained a warm interest in public affairs. He vigorously opposed the new State Constitution of 1853 and made numerous speeches against it; but with this exception and his efforts in the "canvass for General Scott as President, he took no active part in politics. He showed the same zeal as ever in the cause of education, and watched with the deepest interest over the rising fortunes of the Scientific School which he had founded at Cambridge."

Mr. Lawrence married, on the 28th of June, 1819, Katharine, the eldest daughter of the Hon. Timothy Bigelow, the distinguished lawyer. He died in Boston on the 18th of August, 1855, and was buried with civil and military honors.

Recognizing Mr. Lawrence's hearty and generous interest in the cause of education, as well as his valuable public services, Williams College in 1852 and Harvard College in 1854 conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

HON. MOSES P. PALMER.[1]

Moses Poor Palmer is a son of Moses Harriman and Mary Harriman (Hale) Palmer, and was born at Derry, N. H., on May 1, 1830. His parents were cousins, and in the year 1832 the family removed to East Bradford

[1] By Hon. Samuel Abbott Green.

(now Groveland), where the son received his early education, attending school at Merrimack Academy, in that village. During the summer months he worked upon his father's farm, and in the winter on the shoemaker's bench, as was the custom of young men at that time in his neighborhood. He learned the trade of shoe-cutting at Marlborough; and in the year 1854 he came to Groton in order to superintend a shoe factory that had just been started. It was organized by Messrs. Bigelow and Randall, in a building that had then only recently been given up as a tavern, and situated near the Congregational meeting-house. On December 19, 1855, the establishment was burned, and then the business was transferred to the building previously used as a bakery and situated at the corner of Main and West Streets. Here young Palmer remained until 1858, when, in partnership with his brother, he began the manufacture of shoes at Marlborough, where he continued until the breaking out of the Rebellion in the spring of 1861. He then recruited a company of riflemen at Marlborough, and, on May 6th of that year, was commissioned as captain. In the mean time the quota of men asked for by President Lincoln was filled, and for that reason the company was not at once accepted, but was assigned afterward to the Fourth Battalion of Rifles, which became the nucleus of the Thirteenth Massachusetts Volunteers. On June 25th this organization was ordered to garrison Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, where it was soon recruited to ten companies; and on July 16th Palmer was commissioned as first lieutenant. On July 30th the regi-

ment left for the seat of war, and, on August 16, 1862, Lieutenant Palmer was promoted to a captaincy, although he had been in command of the company during most of the time since the regiment left Boston. In the campaign of 1862 he was in command through all the principal battles of the Army of the Potomac, notably the second battle of Bull Run, where he was wounded three times,—one of which wounds was a very severe one, a bullet passing through his neck and lower jaw,—and also slightly wounded at Fredericksburg. He took part in Bolivar Heights, Front Royal, Thoroughfare Gap, Chancellorsville, and various other battles and skirmishes.

During the fight at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, while in the First Corps (Reynolds'), he was severely shot in the right knee and crippled for life, and on March 9, 1864, was honorably discharged from the military service. Owing to this wound he has lost the entire use of his knee, and is compelled to walk on crutches. On May 10, 1866, for gallant and meritorious services in the field, he was breveted major of volunteers.

After his discharge from the army Captain Palmer returned to Groton, the home of his wife, and bought a farm, situated on the Great Road to Boston, about a mile from the village, where he now lives, much respected in the community. For twelve years (1877–89) he served the town as selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor, and for four years was the chairman of the board. He has been commander of E. S. Clark Post, No. 115, Grand Army of the Republic; master of Grange No. 7, Patrons of Hus-

bandry; an officer of the Groton Farmers' and Mechanics' Club, and a member of the Middlesex North Agricultural Society at Lowell, having been for many years one of its vice-presidents and trustees. He has been a justice of the peace since March 30, 1881, and is now treasurer of the New England Milk Producers' Union. His success as a farmer shows what can be accomplished by skill and application, and furnishes a good example for young men to follow.

Major Palmer was a member of the House during the session of 1884, and a member of the Senate during the sessions of 1888–90, a period of three years, a longer term of service than has ever been accorded to any other Senator from his district.

On July 7, 1861, he was married to Martha Green, daughter of Joshua and Matilda (Prescott) Eaton, of Groton; and they have one son and two daughters.

CHARLES HARRISON WATERS.[1]

For a period of twenty-eight years, from 1855 to 1883, Charles Harrison Waters was one of Groton's most capable, efficient and respected citizens. He possessed in a marked degree the qualities which make a strong character; and his usefulness was equal to his energy.

He was the oldest son of Horace Waters and Ruth Hovey, of Millbury, Mass., where he was born July 31, 1828. His school days were not protracted, ending with a term or two at an academy. At the age of

[1] By Rev. Joshua Young, D.D.

fifteen he was a factory boy; at eighteen, an overseer in a mill, already with an aim in life, and to the end of his busy career he pursued, in the main, the way of his father before him, that of a successful manufacturer.

Dec. 21, 1854 he married Mary J. Farnsworth, daughter of James Farnsworth, of Groton, where, in the following year, he took up his residence, at first, on the Farnsworth estate in the west part of the village, and, subsequently, purchasing and remodeling for his occupancy the house owned by Mr. John Peabody on Main Street (North). There were born to him three children, two of whom remain.

Mr. Waters was a man of action; his was an alert mind, his a ready hand. He could not be of the number of those "who merely exist in a state of benumbed torpor, not finding it needful to be more than half awake." He must be up and doing. And so he worked and over-worked until he broke down. Warning came to him some five years before, and he gave it heed just long enough to make a flying trip to Europe, but only to gird on the harness again as soon as he got back.

Mr. Waters had the genius of an inventor. Problems of natural philosophy, physics, books of science had to him far more attraction than other subjects.

He was still a young man only twenty-three when he went to Jewett City, Connecticut, and engaged in the manufacture of rope and twine, introducing original methods. Much of the machinery now in use in the extensive works of the Clinton Wire-cloth Company (of which he was first the agent, then the general manager, then vice-president, and finally president,

which office he held at the time of his decease) was of his invention.

In prosecuting the new enterprise known as the Avery Lactate Company, and while personally superintending the construction of the building at Littleton, from the walls of which he was descending when attacked by paralysis, he either made himself, or caused to be made, some important and original investigations in chemistry. Had his life been spared it is not impossible that this business venture would have been successful.

Undoubtedly the quality of efficiency would be mentioned as his chief mental characteristic. By virtue of his natural executive ability it was his right to lead—not simply to have his own way, but to have things *done* and well done. He used his power for good. And underneath that large, forceful brain there was also an equally large and benevolent heart. The charity that emanated from his house was widely recognized, his own kindness of heart being seconded by that of his estimable wife. As a citizen, he was public-spirited in an eminent degree. He was in favor of improvements, whether it was to have better schools or better roads. In the beautiful village of his residence, whatever gives attractiveness to the place, or character and dignity to the people, is due as much to his personal effort as to that of any other man of his generation. His religious affiliation was with the Unitarians. His attendance on the ministrations of the house of God was as regular and constant as the return of the Sabbath. His mind recognized a Supreme Intelligence, and bowed with reverence and adoration to an authority

"Enthroned above the reach of sight."

For several years he was the president of the North Middlesex Conference of Unitarian and other Christian churches. He died March 13, 1883, aged fifty-four years.

A unique monument of his own design marks his resting-place in the village cemetery.

LUTHER BLOOD.

Luther Blood was born at Groton, October 21, 1810, and is a son of Luther and Sally (Cook) Blood. His grandfather, Caleb, married Hannah Holden, November 1, 1753, and Elizabeth Farnsworth, March 3, 1774. He had twenty-seven children, of whom Luther was the twenty-fifth. Elizabeth, the grandmother, was a member of the old Farnsworth family, whose name was among the first settlers of the town. Caleb was born November 23, 1734, and was the son of John and Joanna (Nutting) Blood, who were married July 13, 1712. The first ancestor in Groton of Luther Blood was probably James, who was one of four by the name of Blood who early went to the township and became original proprietors, and are mentioned as petitioners for a plantation at that place. The family name is a familiar one; and while some who bear it have become widely scattered in the land, there have yet been those who have continued it in Groton and the adjacent places, which were formerly a part of the ancient town. The old homestead, where the subject of this sketch was born, is situated in West Groton, near Fitch's Bridge. It is on the west side of the Nashua

River, and is now owned and occupied by Augustus Blood, a brother of Luther. This estate has for many years been in the possession of the Blood family. The grandfather of Luther came into possession of it when it was wilderness land, and by his industry and thrift it became a smiling homestead, where successive generations of the family have been reared. On this farm the subject of this sketch spent his early years, where his life was in accord with the customs and ways of the rural and sparsely-peopled places of our old New England towns. There was plenty of hard, rough work on the farm, and that substantial and wholesome fare, which may have been a condition of the robust health which he, at his advanced age, now enjoys. The education he received was at the humble school-house in what is still known as District No. 4, and consisted in what could be obtained in a course of six or eight weeks each year.

At the age of eighteen he left home and learned the carpenter's trade. Two school buildings still stand which were erected under his supervision, and which, by their contrast, suggest the rapid improvement in our educational means. One of these is a small, unoccupied, brick school-house, in District No. 4, built in 1835; the other the beautiful Lawrence Academy, erected in 1870.

May 2, 1844, Mr. Blood married Sarah Park Stone, of South Groton, now the town of Ayer. Miss Stone's birthplace was about a mile from Ayer Junction; but her later home was the "Stone Place," on the old road from Ayer to Groton. Mr. and Mrs. Blood have no children. Their residence is pleasantly situated

on High Street, near the Lawrence Academy and the Unitarian Church. Mr. Blood was an old-time Whig, till the breaking up of that party, since which time he has been a Republican. His habits have been simple and regular. He has been temperate and industrious, and bears the marks of well-developed old age.

SAMUEL A. GREEN.[1]

Samuel Abbott Green was born in Groton, Mass., March 16, 1830. He graduated at Harvard in 1851. After receiving his medical degree, in 1854, he spent several years in Europe. On his return he began the practice of his profession in Boston. May 19, 1858, he was appointed by Governor Banks surgeon of the Second Massachusetts Militia Regiment, and at the breaking out of the Rebellion he entered the service as assistant surgeon of the First Massachusetts Regiment, and was the first medical officer in the Commonwealth mustered in for three years' service. September 2, 1861, Dr. Green was promoted to surgeon of the Twenty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment, a position which he occupied until November 2, 1864. During this time he was on the staffs of various cavalry officers. On the Burnside expedition to Roanoke he had charge of the hospital-ship "Recruit," and later, of the hospital-ship "Cosmopolitan," on the South Carolina coast. He was also chief medical officer at Morris Island during the siege of Fort Wagner. He was appointed post-surgeon at Jacksonville and

[1] By the Editor.

St. Augustine, Fla., in October, 1863, and from this point went to Virginia, and was with the army when Bermuda Hundred was taken. After the surrender of Richmond Dr. Green was appointed acting staff-surgeon in that city, where he remained three months.

In 1862 he was successful in organizing Roanoke Cemetery, one of the first regular burial-places for Union soldiers, which was dedicated, with appropriate ceremonies on February 23, 1862. Dr. Green was faithful to his trust, and those characteristics which have marked his later life shone resplendent in the service, and in 1864, for gallant and distinguished services in the field, he was breveted lieutenant-colonel of volunteers.

At the close of the war he returned to Boston, where he has filled various positions of trust and responsibility. From 1865 to 1872 he was superintendent of the Boston Dispensary. He was a member of the Boston School Board in 1860, '62, '66 and '72; trustee of the Boston Public Library from 1868 to '78, and acting librarian from October, 1877, to October, 1878. In 1870 he was appointed by Governor Claflin on the commission to care for disabled soldiers. He was city physician from 1871 to 1880, and also, in 1878, he was chosen a member of the board of experts, authorized by Congress to investigate the yellow fever. He is now serving his fourth term as an Overseer of Harvard College, and is also one of the trustees of the Peabody Education Fund, which was established by the late George Peabody for educational purposes at the South.

In 1882 Dr. Green was elected mayor of Boston.

While Dr. Green has been active and prominent in the affairs of Boston generally, the distinguishing feature of his career, perhaps, is the time and research he has given to historical studies, and the various works which he has prepared and printed—many of them privately—form an invaluable addition to the historic literature of the Commonwealth.

Among his works may be mentioned the following: "My Campaigns in America," a journal kept by Comte William de Deux Ponts, 1780–81; translated from the French manuscript, with an introduction and notes (Boston, 1868); "An Account of Percival and Ellen Green and Some of their Descendants," (printed privately, Groton, Mass., 1876); "Epitaphs from the Old Burying-Ground in Groton, Mass." (1879); "The Early Records of Groton, Mass, 1662–1677" (1880); "History of Medicine in Massachusetts," a centennial address delivered before the Massachusetts Medical Society, June 7, 1881 (Boston, 1881); "Groton during the Indian Wars" (Groton, 1883); "Groton during the Witchcraft Times" (1883); "The Boundary Lines of Old Groton" (1885); "The Geography of Groton," preserved for the use of the Appalachian (Mountain) Club (1886); "Groton Historical Series," thirty-seven numbers, 1883–1890, and the "History of Groton," in this work.

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